

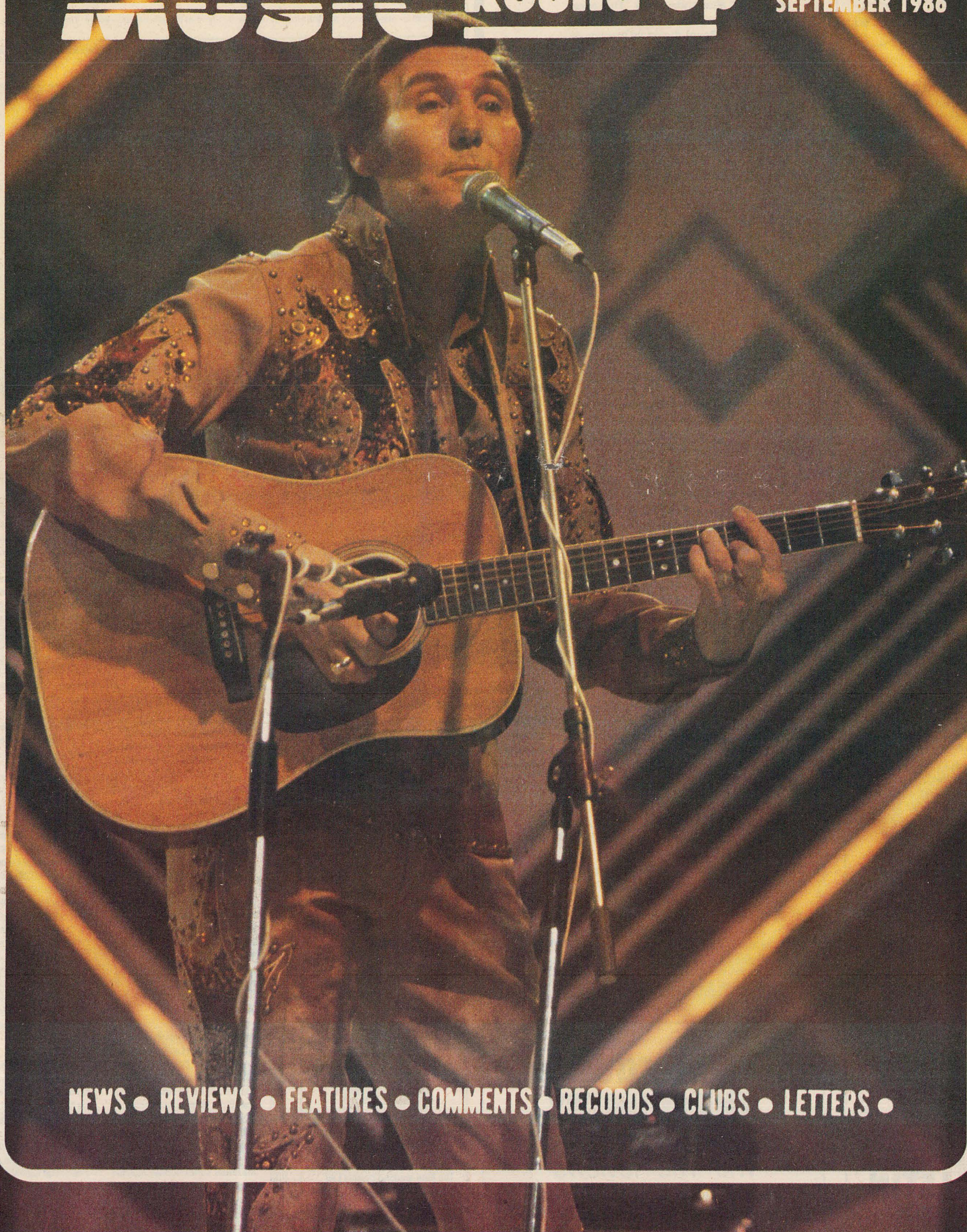
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COUNTRY MUSIC Round Up

JSP

VOL. X No. X
SEPTEMBER 1986



NEWS • REVIEWS • FEATURES • COMMENTS • RECORDS • CLUBS • LETTERS •



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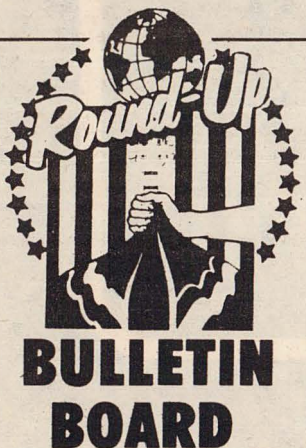
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SIGNED FOR CHARITY

● BBC Radio 2's Country Club has
donated two books crammed with
hundreds of Country Music Stars'
autographs, to the British Country
Music Association. They will be
raffled in aid of the 'Children in
Need' appeal.

● Tickets are 20p each, and come
in books of five. Any club
organisers or individuals
interested in selling them should
send a stamped addressed
envelope to: BCMA, PO Box 240,
Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 7PH.



CMA Raises Membership Dues

NASHVILLE The Country Music Assn's (CMA) Board of Directors has voted to raise both its annual membership dues and ticket prices for the October awards show and after-show party. The price increases were among several actions taken by the Board during its meeting in San Francisco.

Cost of Servicing Members

Effective Jan 1, individual membership dues will increase from \$35 to \$50. This is the first such increase from the CMA in four years. Al Greenfield, who heads the membership committee, told the Board that the cost of servicing members, particularly those in the international category, led to the change.

Awards Show Ticket Price Goes Up

Tickets for the upcoming awards show and post-awards festivities, will cost members \$100 each, and those who want seating on the main floor of the Grand Ole Opry House, site of the televised show, will be charged \$200. Board chairman, Joe Galante, said there have been more orders than seats available during the past five years, and that last year 700 members were denied seating.

In a move to make more seats available, the Board voted that no company be allowed to buy more than 90 tickets for the event.

According to Galante, the cost of staging the post-awards show fest will be up 28% this year, over last.

THE BOARD ALSO . . .

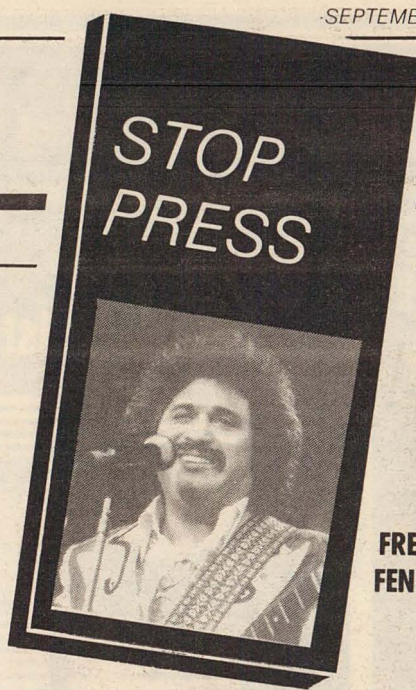
● Accepted a report from the awards criteria committee, that suggests stricter criteria for nominations for Instrumental Group of the Year. The committee, headed by Bob Montgomery, recommended that acts not be eligible in this category unless they perform and are billed separately as instrumental acts.

● Such past winners as Alabama, The Ricky Skaggs Band, and the Charlie Daniels Band would no longer qualify under the new criteria.

FESTIVAL WITHDRAWALS

● Freddy Fender has had to pull out of the Peterborough Festival. News is he's off to Mexico to appear in a film directed by Robert Redford. Problems with the script have meant filming has been brought forward, so festival organiser, Jeffery Kruger, has agreed Freddy can withdraw. He'll be missed, but fans can look forward to seeing him on the big screen soon.

● Another absentee at a Bank Holiday venue, this time at the Morecambe event, Tommy Cash has withdrawn.



FREDDY
FENDER

● Heard Marketing and promotion committee chairman, Dick McCullough announce an 'executive idea session' to be held this month in Nashville, to decide on the best industry use of the data on country music audiences, gathered for the CMA by Market Data Corp., Chicago. Tentative plans call for the information to be condensed into several white papers for distribution to radio stations, record companies, merchandisers, and other segments of the business. The findings of the report have not yet been announced to the CMA membership.

● Awarded the TV/video committee, an undisclosed sum to do a feasibility study for a new sales and promotional video for the CMA. The last one was done in 1980.

● Heard a proposal from the market development subcommittee, that the CMA create a quarterly newsletter for country, college, and contemporary radio stations, retail chains, rackjobbers, and media, to carry 'innovative, contemporary, and upbeat information' about country music.

● Radio committee chairman, Al Greenfield, reported that his group is looking into establishing awards for radio station general manager, programme director, and music director of the year in each market size. A spokesman for the CMA says these awards, if instituted, will probably be given at the annual Country Radio Seminar, rather than on the already prize-crowded October awards show.

● Making Money Makes The Difference, will be the theme of the next Talent Buyers Entertainment Marketplace, Oct 11-12, according to TBES chairman, Tony Conway. The event will be held at the Sheraton Music City.

● In the international arena, the Board heard rosy reports about the recent record merchandising campaign, in England. The international committee says a similar push is planned for next year, with the aim of having a package tour by the artist involved in the promotion.

See . . . Discover New Country
Success, Page 7.

Article reproduced courtesy of Billboard Publications Inc.

NEW ALBUM FOR ED BRUCE TO COINCIDE WITH FESTIVAL

● It was in 1983 that Britain first had the opportunity to see Ed Bruce in concert, and at the Wembley Festival, he quickly won out as one of that year's real success stories.

● Now to coincide with his Peterborough appearance, RCA Records have rush-released his latest album, 'Night Things', which entered the US Country Charts at the end of July. Besides containing the recent top single, 'Nights', the album also features two duets with Lynn Anderson: 'Fools For Each Other' and 'Down The Hall'.

● The creator of some of modern country music's most memorable songs, as well as a highly respected and successful recording artist in his own right, the multi-talented Ed Bruce has built up a loyal audience appreciation which stretches way beyond the boundaries of the United States, and into many international territories.

● In Britain, records such as 'Mammas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys', 'The Last Cowboy Song', 'When I Die Just Let Me Go To Texas', 'Diane', and 'Girls, Women And Ladies', have ensured this singer's popularity with radio audiences, while his support role to James Garner in the 1982/83 'Bret Maverick' series, further extended the Bruce appreciation over to television.

● A big man - both physically (six feet one and a solid two hundred pounds) and in terms of success - Ed Bruce is one of the most popular figures in the country music business, although he prefers to call his music 'American Music' - an all encompassing term, which is certainly relevant when noting that (during the early days) he recorded with Sun Records, as well as being a soul brother on Wand/Septre, a label featuring black artists such as Dionne Warwick, Chuck Jackson, and the Shirelles.

● However, it's with country music that Ed Bruce has made his mark, but by his own description, considers himself '... a songwriter before all things'. Although 'Mammas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys' rates as his biggest success - a top ten hit for himself, and a monster smash for Waylon & Willie (as well as receiving Grammy and CMA Award nominations) - he's provided the annals of country with many other memorable titles, including two for Tanya Tucker 'The Man Who Turned My Momma On' and 'Texas When I Die'; 'Restless' for Crystal Gayle; and 'Workingman's Prayer', which stirred up chart action for Tex Ritter and Dave Dudley; as well as affording Arthur Prysock his most popular record in ten years.

● These days, this Keiser, Arkansas-born singer/songwriter/entertainer, claims Tennessee as his home - and in the role of the Tennessean, he's been a great ambassador for the state, by actively promoting its tourism and industrial development. He brings a lot of that natural goodwill and hospitality with him across the water to the UK.

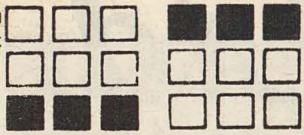


The hard-working Cynthia Leu departs CMA's European offices for RCA International, New York. We wish her every success in her new job . . .

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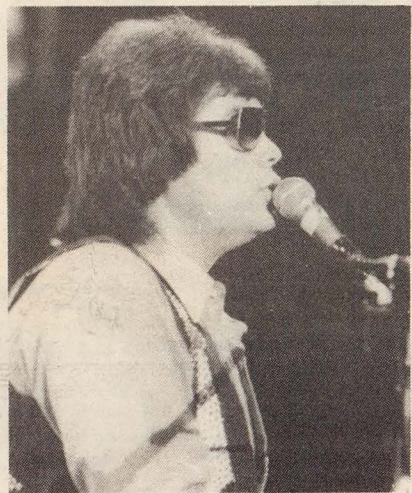


Tri-Son News

THE WORDS THAT GO WITH THE MUSIC



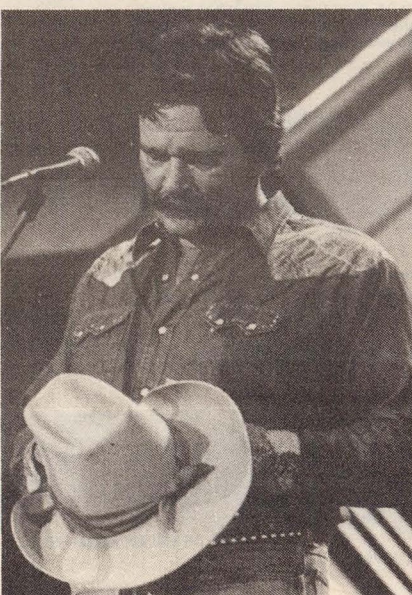
● Becky Hobbs



● Ronnie Milsap



● Eddy Raven



● Ed Bruce

ARTISTS ON THE MOVE

Becky Hobbs to Top Billing, Inc., Nashville; Jim Glaser to World Class Talent, Nashville; Michael Twitty, Tina Carol & Nashville Satin to Mooreland House Music Group, Brentwood, TN.; Karen Taylor-Good to Essex Management, Nashville; Tennessee River Boys to Top Billing, where they've been set to open for such acts as Mel McDaniel, Ronnie Milsap, Lee Greenwood and George Jones; Ed Bruce to Headline International, Nashville; Ray Griff to Evergreen Records, Nashville, for record product: A J Masters to the Bobby Roberts Agency for bookings; Eddy Raven to Jim Halsey Co., Tulsa, OK.

NEWS BRIEFS

Patsy Montana, who has surpassed fifty years as an active country and western entertainer, returns to Europe on 6 September for three concerts in Paris, France and several dates in England. The tour spans a three week period: August marked the second anniversary of the 'Country Capers' column in the weekly 'National Examiner' tabloid. The column, written by Bruce Honick, is the only regular country music feature published by a supermarket tabloid. 'The Examiner', owned by Globe Communications Corp., has a paid weekly circulation of one million, with a total readership of three million per week. This makes Honick's column one of the most widely read in all of country music: Lee Greenwood was in Seattle, WA., in July to perform for the Explorer Law Enforcement Conference, hosted by the Boy Scouts Of America. The Explorers, a co-ed group ranging from the ages of fourteen to twenty, numbered 2,500, from all over the United States; Larry Gatlin & The Gatlin Brothers are spending the first week of August at Harrah's/Lake Tahoe, NV., co-headlining with Johnny Cash, June Carter Cash and The Carter Family.

MORE NEWS BRIEFS

Billy Joe Royal, hospitalised in Bessemer, AL., in July complaining of stomach pains and extreme fatigue, was tested and diagnosed as suffering from exhaustion and dehydration. He was released from hospital on 14 July and has since returned to work; Jerry Clower is now 'sold-out solid' for the year. This is the twelfth straight year the Grand Ole Opry comic has been sold-out by mid-year. Some twenty dates have also been set for Clower in 1987, according to Top Billing's Tandy Rice: More than 51,000 people attending the 4 July celebration hosted by KEBC/Oklahoma City, OK., witnessed major milestones in the career of Moe Bandy. KEBC's Dave Martin interrupted Moe to introduce Woody Bowles, Bandy's new manager, who had flown in from Nashville to get his signature on the dotted line. Moe has also been working on an album for MCA/Curb, with whom he has also just signed: DC Marketing, standing for 'direct contact', has been formed by James Staats and Charles Greenert for the national promotion and marketing of products by young recording artist Mirinda: Lane Brody has finished work on a video called 'That Nashville Feeling', which is part of a video called 'Nashville, A Private Tour'. It will air on CMTV, VH-1 and The Nashville Network. She will also guest in the Statler Brothers new video, 'Only You', filmed at Opryland USA, to be released shortly. Johnny Lee, Thom Bresh and Lane are set for a Super Country Cruise from Miami to Nassau on 8 December: George Strait will perform on a cruise which begins 3 November. Conway Twitty's cruise will get underway on 1 December. Information can be obtained by calling 0101 1 800 433 1333, or 0101 1 800 524 1524 (if in Florida); LRJ Records has released a new single on Sam West IV, titled 'Unwritten, Unsung Country Love Song'.

● WILLIE Nelson and friends are to be commended for their tremendous effort in bringing Farm Aid II to a successful, if not highly prosperous, conclusion. Farm Aid II was somewhat over-run by the three day Statue Of Liberty Celebration, but around 40,000 people did trek to the small community of Manor, TX., to enjoy the performances of some eighty acts and thousands more turned their TV dials to VH-1 to see the concert live. Even though insurance problems forced three site relocations in the final two weeks, Nelson kicked off the show on schedule at 7 am, 4 July and, before the last musical strains were heard that night, talk had already turned to Farm Aid III. Nelson had indicated the next concert will be staged this autumn in Washington, DC. Among the performers there to lend a hand for Farm Aid III were Waylon Jennings, George Jones, Johnny Cash, June Carter Cash, John Schneider, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Rodriguez, Gary Morris, Patty Loveless, Johnny Paycheck, The Beach Boys, John Cougar Mellencamp, Rick James, Neil Young, Julio Iglesias, Don Johnson and lots more.

● On the heels of Farm Aid II comes Project Green Field, a three day concert benefit and festival set for 5/7 September, sponsored by the Michigan Farmers Union (MFU) and the Michigan National Farmers Organisation (NFO). This will be the first attempt for a single State to hold a farm benefit concert.

● Scheduled to perform during the three day event are Conway Twitty, Gene Watson, Eddy Raven, Jim & Jesse, David Frizzell, Mel McDaniel, Johnny Russell, John Anderson, John Conlee, Sonny Wright, Ronnie McDowell, Tom T Hall and O B McClinton. Ralph Emery will MC. Additional information may be obtained from Project Green Field, PO Box 22033, Lansing MI., USA, or by calling either 0101 517 394 1811 or 0101 800 368 0505.

● According to 'USA Today', Willie Nelson's album 'Stardust', may have gotten a sales boost from Farm Aid II and his Liberty Weekend performance. Already having spent 428 weeks on 'Billboard's country chart, the album jumped from number 74 to number 42 and has been climbing quickly. Willie's three other top 100 albums, 'The Promiseland', 'Greatest Hits' and 'Always On My Mind' were less affected.

● Last year's promoter/producer of Farm Aid and this year's Talent Co-ordinator for Farm Aid II, Buddy Lee Attractions, Inc., of Nashville, may have a world record to their credit. 'The Guinness Book Of World Records' is processing the information on Farm Aid II for possible inclusion as 'the greatest number of different acts to perform on one continuous concert.' Totals, with bands and singers, number approximately 500.

● Speaking of the 4 July celebrations, Lights of Liberty, a variety extravaganza presented by Alan Osmond Productions at Cougar Stadium on the BYU campus in Provo, UT., drew approximately 50,000 spectators. The talent line-up included Crystal Gayle, Marie Osmond, Donny Osmond, Mr T, The Osmond Boys (Alan's young sons) and more.

● Loretta Lynn drew rave reviews from the Canadian press during her Expo '86 appearance in Vancouver on 4 July. Grandpa Jones, Larry Gatlin and Ralph Emery were also on the bill. The much-awarded Loretta was in Washington DC., on 28 June to accept the 'Golden Plate Award' from the American Academy of Achievement. The honour, presented each year to approximately forty individuals, is a 'Salute to Excellence'. Recipients are 'men and women of exceptional accomplishment in the sciences, professions, business, industry, arts, literature, sports, entertainment and public service.' Loretta is the first individual from the Nashville community to receive the honour, with the exception of Edward L Gaylord, owner of the Opryland complex, whose Oklahoma Publishing Company was selected in 1985.

● Danny Cooksey has completed work on a 'Showtime' cable television special with Don Rickles called 'Rickles On The Move'. Air dates have not been announced as yet. Danny was in Austin, TX., to take part in Willie Nelson's Farm Aid II, before flying to the nation's capital to participate in the Statue of Liberty celebrations. In Washington, Danny performed a twenty minute set with the United States Air Force Band. Then it was off to California again to do the voice of 'Hubert' in the cartoon 'Pound Puppies' and serve as a celebrity judge on 'Puttin' On The Kids', a brand new spin-off of the highly successful 'Puttin' On The Hits' series. And, if that's not enough to keep a ten year old busy, Danny performed the National Anthem at Dodger Stadium in August.

● A star-studded country music line-up, upwards of 70,000 fans and the hilly Mid-West prairie made for a spectacular 4 July weekend on the 2,200 acre Kermit Pearson Ranch, located near Britton, South Dakota. Performing during the three-day celebration were The Forester Sisters, Bellamy Brothers, Nicolette Larson, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Merle Haggard, Mary Jane Alm, Nancy Griffith, The Marshall Tucker Band, Southern Pacific, The Everly Brothers, The Judds, Tammy Wynette, Dottie West, Dwight Yoakam, Mickey Gilley, Alabama and more. The event was sponsored by Busch Beer and we understand promoter Paul Moe has already started to work on the 1987 version of this new-to-us event.

● Louise Mandrell and Sammy Davis Jr., will co-host the syndicated television special that will present the Service Merchandise 'Battle Of The Bands' in Nashville this autumn. The \$100,000 contest is taking place in 120 cities nationwide to the end of September. The contests are open to all bands, from country to rock. Each winning local band will receive \$500 and will move on to one of the eight regional competitions. Regional winners will reap a \$1,000 prize and move on to the Grand Finals, to be held on 1 November at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Nashville. Jerry Free Productions will syndicate the show, which has already acquired commitments from fifty television stations to air the November special.

● Gene Autry, according to Hap Peebles, is in good condition following surgery at St Joseph's Hospital, in Orange, CA., on 18 July. Autry, (78), had bumped into someone in the hall outside a court room in Santa Ana and fell, causing the injury. He has had a right femoral hip replacement and is scheduled for a few more days in the hospital before entering into a rehabilitation programme.

● Lee Greenwood continues to headline periodic concert dates for the Coors Veterans Memorial Scholarship Fund, a project that was to have concluded on Memorial Day '86. But, the sell-out crowds and the money being raised to provide education for the families of veterans has provided the impetus to lengthen the tour to at least the end of the year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

● Christian F Martin III was buried on 19 June in Bethlehem, PA. The ninety-one year old Martin was head of the family owned instrument company that set the industry standard for acoustic guitars. He had been resting in a nursing home following a stroke which he suffered two weeks earlier; Thomas Gary Overstreet III, twenty-six year old son of Tommy Overstreet, who served as road manager and creative director for his Dad, died at his home in Nashville on 18 July. Memorial contributions can be made to the Epilepsy Foundation; According to 'Variety', the twenty-two year old daughter of late country singer Dorsey Burnette, died on 15 July when the sports car she was driving on a residential street in the Los Angeles suburb of Woodland Hills, crashed into several trees and a brick wall. She is survived by her Mother and Brother.

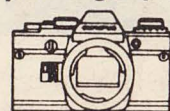
● Tommy Overstreet has joined forces with former major league basketball player Jack Hamilton to open a huge restaurant-lounge in the Ozark Mountains near Branson, MO; Christy Forester and Gary Smith, pianist of the award-winning Ricky Skaggs Band, have announced their engagement. A late December wedding is planned at the New Salem United Methodist Church where the Forester Sisters began their singing career. The couple met backstage in Knoxville on Valentine's Day, when the Foresters opened a show for Ricky Skaggs. A Hawaiian honeymoon is planned and the couple will reside in Music City.

● Warner Home Video has released details of its holiday catalogue promotion, which will include twenty-one titles at \$24.98 each. Included in the releases will be 'Gremlins' which co-stars Hoyt Axton and 'This Is Elvis'.

● Gun collector Hank Williams Jr., recently purchased as 1870 Camel Gatling Gun (made by Colt) from another gun fanatic in Brewster, Kansas. Williams will take possession of the cannon-like antique after the seller puts it through a thorough restoration process.

● Balloting is underway for the 'Country Music Association Awards', to be presented this autumn. The ten finalists for the 'Horizon Award' are T Graham Brown, Forester Sisters, Vince Gill, Kathy Mattea, Restless Heart, John Schneider, Dan Seals, Randy Travis, Keith Whitley and Dwight Yoakam. Candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame include (from the Living Non-Performing category) Ken Nelson, Hap Peebles, Frances Preston, Wesley Rose and Cliffie Stone. From the open category (living or deceased performer or deceased non-performer), Rod Brasfield, Elton Britt, Whitey Ford, Homer & Jethro, George Jones, Louvin Brothers and Willie Nelson.

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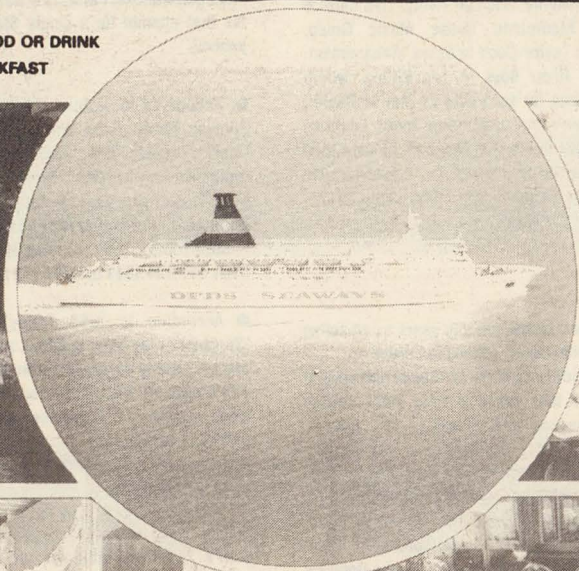
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DAY 1 SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER 1986

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DAY 2 MONDAY 10th NOVEMBER 1986

A leisurely day spent cruising the north seas to Gothenburg. At times to be announced, a full programme of Top Country & Western Music will be provided throughout the day. We are due to dock in Gothenburg at 2000 hours (Swedish Time), all passengers will clear Swedish customs immigration. You are free to join us in the lounge for another evening of country music or if you wish, go into Gothenburg, and explore its night life.

DAY 3 TUESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 1986

At 0845 hours we join our coaches for the short journey into Gothenburg, where you will be left to explore the city or do some shopping, taking advantage of the Tourist Duty Free Shopping. 1100 hours approx. we return to the ship for our return sailing, and another afternoon and evening of Country Music, through till 1 o'clock.

DAY 4 WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER 1986

Another relaxing morning cruising, and time to enjoy our last session of country music. The raffle will be drawn with plenty of fabulous prizes to be won. We are due to dock at Harwich at 1300 hours after a very memorable 4 day cruise.

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CMRU COVER STAR 'FUNNY HOW TIME SLIPS AWAY - BILLY WALKER

● A visitor to the UK this month, our September issue cover star, has behind him over twenty years of dedication, diligence and a 'strictly professional' attitude. This, combined with overwhelming 'God-given' talent has made Billy Marvin Walker one of country music's favourite sons.

● Now dubbed 'The Tall Texan', it was sheer determination, for example, as a young man, hitch-hiking eighty miles each week to do a New Mexico radio show, plus a tremendous personal desire to sing and entertain, that provided the sorts of stimuli which now keeps those wheels rolling on the big customized diesel bus which carries Billy and his band, The Tennessee Walkers, all over the USA and Canada every year.

● Regarding his role as a professional, Billy reflects, 'We have what I feel is an excellent, self-contained, professional show which plays weekly to thousands at fairs, rodeos, ballrooms, clubs, theme parks and trade shows. This personal appearance element represents the majority of our professional activity time. I make no secret that I always make every effort to encore. If I accomplish this, it represents not only personal satisfaction, but also audience satisfaction and no-one

will dispute the fact that audience satisfaction has great bearing on any entertainer's future.'

● As a young man, Billy spent time learning his trade by touring with Jimmy Lawson and Hank Thompson. He also worked on Shreveport's legendary 'Louisiana Hayride', with then newcomers such as Webb Pierce, Faron Young and a young former Memphis truck driver Elvis Presley. Later he became a regular on Red Foley's ABC TV network show, 'The Ozark Jubilee' in Springfield, Missouri, for three years, during which time he also appeared on the 'Big D Jamboree' in Dallas, Texas. His own show 'Country Carnival', plus 'Hee Haw', (Mike Douglas), 'Joey Bishop's', 'Pop Goes The Country' and 'Nashville On The Road' and The Ronnie Prophet Show, 'Grand Ole Country', have consistently kept him in front of American and Canadian fans, plus he joined the Grand Ole Opry in 1962.

● Fifteen years with Columbia Records produced such number one tunes as 'Funny How Time Slips Away', 'Cross The Brazos At Waco', 'A Million And One', 'Circumstances' and a huge quarter-million seller 'Charlie's Shoes'.

Billy's later recordings were 'Word Games', 'Don't Stop In My World', 'When A Man Loves A Woman' and 'If I'm



Billy Walker pictured with good buddies George Hamilton IV and Paul Davies of Word Records.

Losin' You'. Hits have been a trend for Billy as he ranked among the top twenty most programmed country artists over a period of twenty years, according to a recent 'Billboard' survey.

● Billy Walker's popularity in Britain is sure to be maintained as he takes his show on the road, together with the ever popular Jean Shepard. For full details, see elsewhere in this publication.

COUNTRY ROCK PILE



BY PETE SMITH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all Virgo and Libra people, including:-

(1st) Conway Twitty & Boxcar Willie

(3rd) Hank Thompson & Tompall Glaser

(4th) Gene Parsons

(6th) David Allan Coe & Lyn Powell

(8th) Harlan Howard & Merle Kilgore

(9th) Freddy Weller

(10th) Tommy Overstreet

(12th) George Jones

(13th) Bill Monroe

(15th) Roy Acuff

(16th) David Bellamy (of the Bellamy Brothers)

(18th) Priscilla Mitchell

(19th) Sylvia Tyson & David Bromberg

(21st) Dickie Lee, Don Felder

(of the Eagles) & Kenny Starr

(22nd) Debbie Boone

(23rd) Mike Mills (formerly of Free Spirit)

(25th) Royce Kendall (of the Kendalls) & Ian Tyson

(26th) Lynn Anderson, Carlene Carter & David Frizzell

(28th) Tommy Collins

(29th) Jerry Lee Lewis, Gene Autry & Alvin Crow

Also, let's remember those country artistes who passed away during the month of September, Vernon Dalhart (1948), Gram Parsons (1973) and Steve Goodman (1984).

● The Statler Brothers just about swept the board at this year's 'Music City News Awards' by claiming five accolades. Marvellous though this achievement is, it still fell short of the six awards they collected last year. The brothers' latest album, 'Four For The Show', is currently shooting up the American charts... George Strait, who cancelled his trip to Britain because of fears of terrorism, hopes to visit next year. Meanwhile, You can enjoy Strait's mix of ballads, western swing and honky tonk on 'Number 7' (MCA)... The one criticism of the 'Celebrity '86 Country Music Show' is that it plays the North of England and Scotland and the South of England, but not the bit in the middle and Wales. Don't people living there want to see Jean Shepard, Billy Walker and Rusty Adams? Apparently not, for at the time of writing, nineteen dates were booked, ten in the Southern regions, seven in Scotland and one each in Middlesbrough and Carlisle.

● GRAHAM Nash is still hopeful of yet another Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young reunion. That is when Dave Crosby gets out of jail... Farm Aid II was staged at the Texas Memorial Stadium, Austin, on 4th July. Stars included Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Neil Young, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Kris Kristofferson, David Allan Coe, The Fabulous Thunderbirds and 'Miami Vicer' Don Johnson, who once wrote songs for the Allman Brothers... John Fogerty is in the studios working hard on a new album to follow his highly successful 'Centrefield'... Indigo Lady, the Birmingham based, all girl band, who made their Fan Fair debut in Nashville in June, also made a guest appearance at Music City's Bluebird Cafe. The group's current line-up is Ingrid Bromley (drums, vocals), Anne Scambler (lead guitar, vocals), Sally Looker (lead vocals) and Cary Lord (bass, vocals).

● The influential Music Retailers Association bestowed their 'Folk And Country Record' award upon George Hamilton IV for his marvellous 'Hymns Country Style', released on the Word label. 'MRA' awards are given for excellence in recording arts and industry and this year's were presented by former Prime Minister, Edward Heath, who said the award to

a Christian album was 'a most interesting and telling commentary of changing demands.' Let us remind ourselves of 'Hymns Country Style' (WST 9656). It contains fifteen spiritual evergreens, recorded in London and using only British musicians (Rod Edwards, Jim Sullivan, Graham Preskett, Jonny Young etc). The songs include 'It Is No Secret', 'Rock Of Ages', 'The Old Rugged Cross', 'Abide With Me' and 'Wings Of A Dove'. Congratulations, George, on this most important breakthrough for country gospel music.

● Staying with gospel music, the unlikely named Wayne Drain, a singing Minister, has come up with a beautiful cassette entitled, 'We're Gonna Win' (Kingsway). The eleven songs were all written by Wayne during the first half of the eighties and are in the contemporary mould. It appears that the tape was recorded in Texas and therefore features the best of the Lone Star State's Christian pickers, such as Jerry McPherson (guitars), Rose Green (keys) and Fletch Wiley (horns). The executive production is by David and Dale Garratt of the group Scripture In Song. A most beneficial and entertaining release.



● This summer saw the Everly Brothers begin their twenty-six city, thirty-five date tour of the USA and Canada, including an appearance at 'Expo '86' and a week at the Las Vegas 'Hilton'. As a back-up band, the brothers took along guitarists Albert Lee and Hank DeVito (both formerly with the Hot Band), Pete Wingfield (keys), Larrie Londin (drums) and Phil Cranham (bass)... Other American highs this year

so far, have included the Newport Folk Festival (featuring John Hartford); Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival with Bill Monroe, Ralph Stanley, The Osborne Brothers and the Whites and Milwaukee's 'Summerfest', which included four stages. Rock Stage - The Blasters; Main Stage - Willie Nelson, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Fabulous Thunderbirds; Country Stage - Bonnie Raitt, Marshall Tucker Band, Los Lobos, Gregg Allman and Dickey Betts and a jazz stage.

● Country cares, of course it does! Our artistes are never slow to offer their services for a good cause. Further proof of this occurred a few weeks ago when Pete Jones staged a concert to benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Appearing were the Pete Jones Outfit, Stone Creek, The Mick Conlin Band and Keith John from America. The packed audience thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were generous in their appreciation. Pete had been collecting for the society for some weeks before the concert and his efforts realised a generous £441.00. Well done, Pete!

● Lone Justice fans be ready for a shock. The new album, just in the making, is described by lead singer Maria McKee as 'more rock, less countryish.' Another sellout?

● Rockabilly fans will be sad to hear that Dave Alvin has left The Blasters to join John X. His place has been filled by former Albert King sideman Hollywood Fats.

● Still with rockabilly fans in mind, Roy Orbison began his career as a hard country singer with the Wink Westerners, named for his hometown in Texas. It was Elvis Presley who altered Orbison's style and gave him the incentive to go to Memphis to audition for Sam Phillips' Sun label. Armed with a rough demo of his song, 'Ooby Dooby', Roy approached Phillips. Malcolm Yelvington, another Sun artiste, thought the song silly, but nevertheless it was released and sold half a million copies, making the 'Billboard' charts. Orbison's recordings for Sun have not been chronicled as well as, say Cash or Perkins. What is sure is that he definitely recorded twenty-three sides for Sun. A further eleven are a matter of dispute. Roy's career with Sun lasted under two years, from 1956 to 1958 and saw the release of four different singles, all of which are represented on 'Big O' (Magnum).

The first single, released on 1st May 1956 as Sun 242, featured 'Go, Go, Go', coupled with 'Ooby Dooby'. Single number two, released on 24th January 1957, was 'You're My Baby' (251). The release date for the third single, 'Devil Doll' was re-released on 14th November 1960, as Sun 353. 'Chicken Hearted' (284) was Roy's last single for Sun, released on 1st December 1957. Add to these tracks 'I Never Knew', 'It's Too Late', 'Domino', 'Trying To Get To You' and 'You're Gonna Cry' and you have 'Big O', an interesting glimpse of an embryo superstar.

● Congratulations to Bear Family on the label's tenth anniversary. Yes, for ten years, the German company has been reminding us of the roots of country music, thanks to some diligent research and quality re-issues. I suppose the highlights of this decade have been the fifteen album series, 'The Waylon Jennings Files', the seventeen albums covering just about every musical aspect of Marty Robbins, the nine album box set of Conway Twitty and the fourteen piece box set of Lefty Frizzell. But it has been a tremendous ten years for country music historians, with Bear Family releases on such little known artistes as Charline Arthur and Tibby Edwards, the bluegrass of Bill Clifton and the Southern Eagle String Band, the authentic cowboy songs of Carl T Sprague and Ed McCurdy and the western swing of Pee Wee King and Hank Penny. Here's to the next ten years.

● That's it for this month. 'Til next, remember, there are stars in the Southern sky.

Thanks, For The Nominations

The Pudds
Wynonna
Naomi

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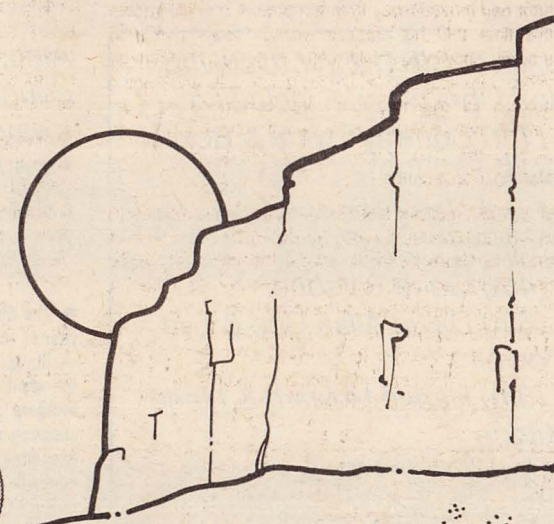
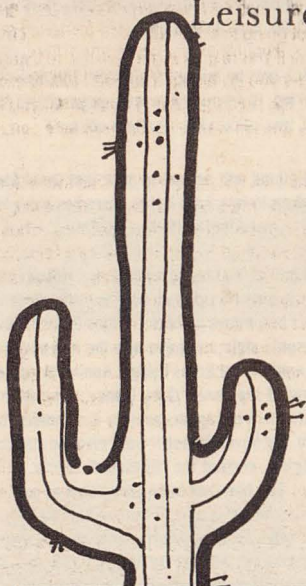
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3rd July	West Coast	Bob Newman & Carole Gordon
10th July	West Virginia	Tony Best
17th July	Pinkertons Colours	Snuffy Garrett
24th July	Rogue Band	Sundown
31st July	Hickory Lake	Bettina
7th Aug	Cliff Ledger Family	Naden Brothers
14th Aug	Special Event	
21st Aug	Bob McKinlay & Dixie Fried	Cliff Whelan
28th Aug	Cliff Ledger Family	Gordie West

4th Sept	West Virginia	Tennessee Moon
11th Sept	Frank Ifield Show	
18th Sept	Jeannie & Steppinstone	Miki & Griff
25th Sept	Rogue Band	Leapy Lee Show
2nd Oct	White Line Fever	Rose Marie
9th Oct	Rogue Band	Leapy Lee Show
16th Oct	West Virginia	Clinton Ford Show
23rd Oct	West Virginia	Tennessee Moon
30th Oct	Hickory Lake	Bob Newman & Carole Gordon

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● 'I guess I'm just a nice guy trying to do good in life... 'So said country superstar Eddie Rabbitt, while currently on the threshold of regenerating a stellar career, with a bold label move to RCA and the March 1986 release of his brand new album 'Rabbitt Trax'.

● Recorded in New York and Los Angeles, using two independent producers more familiar in pop and rock circles than the country field, 'Rabbitt Trax' is Eddie's first significant offering for some time and, if the apparent success of the first single from it 'Repetitive Regret', is anything to go by, it just might prove to be the spur needed to launch Eddie Rabbitt to the heights he enjoyed in the late seventies and early eighties.

● Although Rabbitt has always vigorously asserted his country leanings and influences, his fondness for music as an all encompassing expressive entity has led him to explore areas of musical articulation that have hardly endeared him to the puritanical country fan. However, his dynamic and energetic form of country music, performed as it is with an erotic verve and vitality, has long attracted a younger, wider audience to the music that eventually spawned more 'countrified' rockers such as Alabama etc.

● Recipient of eighteen BMI Awards for country songs between 1971 and 1983, holder of a platinum award for the 'Horizon' album, two gold awards for the 'Best Of Eddie Rabbitt' and 'Step By Step' and two gold single awards for 'Drivin' My Life Away' and 'I Love A Rainy Night', Eddie Rabbitt has come a long way from his humble beginnings when, as a five year old, he dreamed of one day becoming a singer.

'CMRU' EXCLUSIVE

● A native of Orange, New Jersey, Rabbitt hails from an Irish immigrant background, a fact of which he is modestly proud and is, in truth, remarkably obvious from the mischievous twinkle in those merry blue eyes to the innate sense of fun that pervades his disarmingly attractive six foot-three frame. A film director's dream, Rabbitt's naturally swarthy and stunningly handsome good looks would see him perfectly cast as an Irish gypsy or roving buccaneer. But movies are not in Rabbitt's field of vision. Music and remaining at peace with himself and his family, wife Janine and daughter Demelza, form the most important aspects of this most genial and affable of superstars.

● As a child, Eddie was exposed to music almost from the beginning. His Father played violin and accordion and Eddie himself soon showed an enthusiastic appreciation for the sounds he heard. At the age of twelve, a scoutmaster taught him the basic chords on the guitar, an instrument he went on to master alone after his tutor had moved away from the area. It was also about this time that his creative writing talents began to emerge, showing glimpses of future genius. His teenage years were spent perfecting his guitar skills and singing abilities by playing talent contests around his East Orange home. By the time he left school and began playing the club scene, that childhood dream was starting to take shape.

● In 1967, realising that if he wanted to carve a career in music (and country music in particular), he would have to move to Nashville to be amidst the business. Eddie packed his bags and, with \$1,000 in his pocket, jumped a greyhound bus and headed for the country music capital. That initial trip lasted only a few weeks before he returned home, but the lure of the music in his blood and the dream in his head, took him back to Nashville at the end of 1967, this time for good.

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● Eddie remembers writing his first song not long after arriving in town and having it recorded by Roy Drusky a week later. The song, 'Working My Way Up To The Bottom', reached number thirty-three on the charts and prompted an ill-found optimism in the young songwriter that was soon dispelled by the harsh realities of life.

● Although his heart was set on being a singer and performing his own songs, Eddie quickly discovered that his talents as a songwriter were of more material use to him at the time. So, he kept himself from starving by finding himself a job with Hill and Range music publishing, earning the princely sum of \$37.50 per week as a staff writer. His years spent writing exclusively were not wasted. His tunes were recorded by such greats as Ronnie Milsap for whom he wrote 'Pure Love' and Elvis Presley who won a gold single award with Eddie's 'Kentucky Rain'.

● In 1957, he recorded his debut album, 'Eddie Rabbitt' on the small Elektra label, thereby embarking upon the illustrious career that eventually produced twelve number one singles, including 'Drinkin' My Baby Off My Mind' (his first in 1976), 'Every Which Way But Loose', 'Drivin' My Life Away', 'I Love A Rainy Night', 'Step By Step', 'Someone Could Lose A Heart Tonight' and the tender duet ballad with Crystal Gayle 'You And I', which peaked number one in January 1983.

● In that same year his label, Elektra, was merged with the giant Warner company and Rabbitt found that, after many years of being top dog, his situation was now considerably less than one of the pack, as he related to me recently when I met up with him briefly backstage before an electrifying performance in Austin, TX. 'When I was with Elektra I was pretty much priority on the label and we were doing pretty well. Then, when Warner took over, all the Elektra artistes went to the bottom of the roster where nobody pays any attention to you. It's just the facts of the business. When you're one of a hundred you don't get as much attention as when you're one of ten. But, I didn't like that situation, because we'd been doing awful good at the time and making a lot of inroads into the European market, which all just fell through when that happened. So, that's the reason I got off Warner and went to RCA. It was just such a confused mess.'

● The label change seems to have done Eddie the world of good. His latest album 'Rabbitt Trax' is crammed full of potential hit singles and the overall feel shows a stronger, emotively mature Rabbitt vocally. Prime cuts include the highly charted single 'Repetitive Regret', a fast paced, jaunty number with some catchy lyrics; a dramatically lyrical song by Reed Neilsen 'When We Make Love'; 'Letter From Home', a delightful pseudo comic song with earnest undertones written by the same author; 'Threw It Away', a classic pop rocker in the mould of 'Rainy Night' or 'Step By Step'; the lavishly orchestrated and powerfully delivered 'Gotta Have You', which is scheduled for eventual video release and a tender Wayland Holyfield/Peter McCann composition 'This Moment', which see Eddie at his seductive best.

● Rabbitt's slightly more philosophically serious side is seen in one of his own two collaborations, 'A World Without Love' (co-written with Even Stevens, his long-time friend and writing partner), in which he attempts to draw a parallel between the world's coldness and a man's optimistic search for true love. Produced by Richard Landis in Los Angeles and Phil Ramone in New York, Eddie would seem to be trying to play both the pop and country markets at the same time and certainly his effort here could stand in either chart, as Rabbitt's music has never been easily categorised and that's exactly how the man himself wants it to stay.



'RABBITT TALKING'

EDDIE RABBITT
Talks to Irene Paterson

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

● Any label move brings its own innovations and political re-shaping of artistic creativity and I wondered just how much control Eddie had over his recordings nowadays. His answer spoke volumes and left no doubt as to the high status RCA afford him.

'Total. We always talk about everything though. But, if I'm real set on doing something, I'll do it. That's the way it is. The pictures on the album, the credits, everything. But, I mean, it's a group effort, it has to be. Everybody has to be consulted about what's happening, but if it comes down to, you know, do we do this one or that one, we would do the one I want to do.'

● Did he feel as if his music had changed radically over the years?

'I don't know if it has. As far as growth and maturity (in writing) coming along, it's like hair growing. You never see it happening, it's too slow, but sooner or later you need a haircut! As far as my music changing though, I haven't really seen any changes, but I'm sure there are some. As you go along, you pick up different ideas and different thoughts and incorporate them in new songs. I started writing about ten or fifteen years ago and I don't feel like a day has gone by in my life! I'm stopped in time!'

EUROPEAN
MARKET PLACE

● In view of his wide and varied appeal within the music industry and, taking into consideration the massive 'Discover New Country' campaign currently underway in the British market, I asked Eddie if he was interested in re-awakening that initial interest in breaking into the European market?

'Oh, sure, sure! I think it would be great! The more people who hear and buy your records, the better off the business is and the better off the artiste is! I was in Europe, in fact, about five years ago when we were on Elektra. We did a promotional tour of the UK and Europe. You know, paving the way, talking to radio, press and meeting people and we had a great time.

I'm sure now that we're back on a major label and I'm their prime target right now to start things going again, that we'll definitely start wanting to explore that area once more, because we did have some records that did pretty well over there. But we're gonna do it right and do it so everybody has fun.'

● In stark contrast to the public image of latent sexuality that surrounds him, Eddie is in fact a very happily married man, whose family constitute an important part of his life that he has no intention of putting in jeopardy, even to the point of spending valuable touring days at home.

'Oh, everyone's always complaining about that, but that's the way it is! I made a commitment to my wife and family and I'm not going to break that commitment. I feel it's real important, if you're gonna get married, to try and fit everything in as you go along. You can't spend your whole life out on the road then come back when you're seventy or eighty and tell your wife, OK, now let's party!'

● Speaking to him it's immediately obvious that Eddie Rabbitt is a happy man. An idealistic romantic, a visionary dreamer, yet a shrewd businessman, whose skill and talent have taken him to the top and kept him there. Yet despite all his achievements, Eddie still refuses to acknowledge he has reached a pinnacle. 'Gee, I never feel like I've reached that! I feel there's a lot more things to do in life yet, a lot more places to go, a lot more hit songs to write and record. It's a never ending quest for truth, justice and the American song! If anyone can find that 'American song' it's Eddie Rabbitt.

DISCOVER
NEW COUNTRY
A SUCCESSUK Companies Plan The
Next Step Forward

● THE Country Music Association's UK Marketing Advisory Committee (which includes the Marketing Directors of EMI, CBS, Epic, MCA and RCA) have declared the recent Discover New Country campaign a success.

● Discover New Country achieved widespread media coverage and resulted in a significant rise in country LP sales, with most of the campaign titles doubling and in some cases trebling previous sales volumes, said RCA International's Greg Rogers, who's current Chairman of the CMA's International Committee. 'With extended campaigns, including TV merchandising, a mail order campaign and back catalogue campaigns, we're expecting sales in excess of 250,000 units in the UK'.

● Discover New Country focused on ten albums by Rosanne Cash, Exile, Hank Williams Jr., Gary Morris, Don Williams, Sawyer Brown, George Strait, The Oak Ridge Boys, The Judds and Alabama, introducing British record buyers to the contemporary sounds of American country music.

● Some of the featured artistes came to the UK for promotional visits, including Rosanne Cash, who appeared on 'Wogan'; Exile, who played the Silk Cut Festival over Easter; Oak Ridge Boy Richard Sterban and Gary Morris, who's been seen as a blind country singer in BBC TV's 'Dynasty II - The Collyrs'.

● Originally planned as a month-long exercise in March, Discover New Country went on for over three months because interest was so strong, with dealers still re-ordering from the ten albums in the campaign and media attention continuing. In April the HMV Shop in London's Oxford Street gave over its entire front window to the campaign.

● Starblend Records launched their TV advertised double album set, 'Discover Country', featuring established names, and 'Discover New Country', with the campaign acts, in early June, which has meant that interest and sales in the campaign will continue through the summer.

● 'Discover New Country was a success because albums under the campaign umbrella did significantly better than other country releases we had out at the same time,' said David Hughes, Marketing Director for EMI Records, a comment echoed by the other companies.

'This is one generic marketing campaign which has worked,' said Cynthia Leu, the CMA's former Director of Operations in Europe. 'Our idea of the major companies working together to build a country audience has been acknowledged by the UK labels. Now the CMA have the results of the campaign, which prove it was an effective way of extending sales significantly.'

● The campaign took contemporary country music into media areas which would not normally have treated the music seriously. 'Discover New Country had a lot to do with changing the image of country music in the UK,' said Richard Wootton of Byworth-Wootton International, who handled national press for the campaign. 'I think we made a major breakthrough in convincing music journalists that there's a huge difference between old style country and western and 'New Country' and that some of the featured acts do have enormous potential outside the USA. We are delighted to get articles in publications as diverse as 'Blitz', 'i-D', '19', 'Cosmopolitan', 'Record Mirror', 'Time Out', 'The Star', 'Today', 'The Guardian' and 'The Daily Telegraph'.

● There were Discover New Country competitions in the teenage-orientated 'Record Mirror', which brought one of the best reader responses of the year and 'The Star', where twice the average number of readers entered.

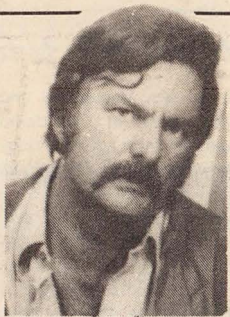
● The trade paper 'Music Week' ran a competition for participating Discover New Country record dealers, which was won by twenty-two year old Mick Reeves from Virgin Records in Carlisle. Reeves, who likes a lot of the 'New Country' and country rock acts, said he's seen major changes in country record buyers this year. 'It used to be

unusual for anyone under forty years of age to buy country records, but now it's quite common to see people in their twenties buying records by the likes of Ricky Skaggs, Rosanne Cash and Dwight Yoakam. Young people still aren't buying the old hillbilly stuff, but there's genuine interest in 'New Country.' Mick's prize was a nine day holiday for two in America.

● According to the CMA's London spokesperson, 'Discover New Country built from the base of existing British country fans, but extended the potential audience to take in a wide cross-section of the public, including young people who've previously been put off by the music because of its out-dated image. Now we're finally heading in the right direction to achieve the true potential of country music here, as revealed by the 1984 MORI survey, which showed that 49% of the UK population liked it.'

● 'We've reinforced what we've thought all along, that there's a huge portion of the public who are infrequent record buyers. Logically, they're inactive because they are not motivated to buy. We've given them something between Sique Sique Sputnik and Frank Sinatra. If they hear it, they like it and it's available, it's obvious they'll buy it and they've begun to buy 'New Country'.

● The CMA's UK Marketing Advisory Committee are now making plans for the future. 'We're looking towards more Discover New Country activities,' said Epic Marketing Director, Jerry Turner. 'We're considering a marketing campaign linked to a possible 'New Country' tour and also another campaign centred around another group of albums.'



Clive Wynes

☆☆☆☆☆

The Birth Of A Label

● Originally formed back in the early fifties by 'Pappy' Dailey and Jack Starnes (it was from their names that the Starday name was taken), this small Texas based label moved to Nashville in 1957.

● In the early sixties, Starday joined forces with the much longer established King Records Company of Cincinnati, who had established a large catalogue of rhythm and blues as well as country music. However, the late sixties brought about a decline in fortune for Starday/King until a guy called Moe Lytle bought them up and gave them a new lease of life under the Gusto label. Then their fortunes were reversed, with a canny re-release of the back catalogue material from Starday & King, together with material from lesser known labels



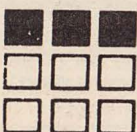
ERIC WATSON
COUNTRY MUSIC IN AUSTRALIA
Rodeo Publications
ISBN 0 9599080 1 3

COUNTRY MUSIC IN AUSTRALIA VOL. 2
Cornstalk
ISBN 0 207 14087 1

These two soft-cover volumes are essential reading for anyone with more than a passing interest in the fascinating story of the development of a style of country music, which is peculiar to Australasia. The author, Eric Watson, is one of Australia's most respected country music historians, and the overwhelming love that he has for his subject is reflected in every page.

Jimmie Rodgers, Wilf Carter and Goebell Reeves were probably the three most influential figures in the early days of Australasian country music, and this influence is reflected in the early recordings of Slim Dusty, Tex Morton, and Buddy Williams, who are just three of the artists covered in the first volume. Slim Dusty, the father of Australian country, is best known here for his international hit, 'The Pub With No Beer', and, with over thirty albums currently available, is justifiably the 'King of Country' down under. But what of Tex Morton, Hypnotist, sharp-shooter, Hollywood actor, and song stylist extraordinary, or Buddy Williams, raised in an orphanage, and who thought he'd hit the big time back in the thirties, when he made around £13 a day from one day's busking. Other names may not be so familiar, such as Shirley Thoms, Smilin' Billy Blinkhorn, or The Singing Stockmen, but their music is just as interesting and as important.

Clive Wynes



PLENTY OF GUSTO!

The words that go with the music

REVIEWS

IMPORT PARADE

THE re-emergence here of the famed Starday & Gusto catalogues is great news for fans of the more traditional styles of country music. With many hundreds of back catalogue albums, along with re-recordings of greatest hits packages, many fans and record collectors will be spoilt for choice.



such as Stop, Federal, Hollywood and Deluxe. They also used the now well-known Gusto policy of picking up on well-known artists without current record deals and taking them into the studio to re-record their former best hits.

A Star's Who's Who

● The roster of stars with records available on the Starday and Gusto labels reads like the veritable Who's Who of Country Music, but arguably, the most important signing to the Starday label was the 'Prince of Pain', George Jones. His '16 Greatest Hits' album can be found on SD 3021 and there, nestling among the tracks, can be found such classics as 'Why Baby Why', 'Seasons Of My Heart' and 'I'm Ragged But I'm Right'.

● Another favourite with British fans is 'Ol' Syrup Sopper', Red Sovine, who's well represented by '16 All Time Favourites' (SD 3010), a package that includes 'Giddy Up Go' and 'The Gear Jammer And The Hobo' (a duet with Johnny Bond), and 'Teddy Bear' (GT 0071), which, along with the now famous title track, contains 'The Woman Behind The Man Behind The Wheel' and 'The Prettiest Dress'.

● Among the 'Greatest Hits' packages can be found such current British favourites as this month's front cover star Billy Walker (GT 0040), featuring a couple of my favourite Billy Walker tracks, the western flavoured 'Cross The Brazos At Waco' and 'Matamoros'. Western swing exponent Hank Thompson has a ten tracker on Gusto GT 0060, which includes 'Wild Side Of Life', 'Humpty Dumpty Heart' and 'Smoky The Bar', while the little man with the big heart, Little Jimmy Dickens runs through a selection that includes 'Take An Old Cold Tater And Wait', 'May The Bird Of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose', on the numerous side plus 'We Could' and the famous 'Violet And The Rose' in a more serious vein, (GT 0041).

● The vivacious Wanda Jackson's 'Greatest Hits' (GT 0057), includes the classic 'Right Or Wrong', along with the religious flavoured 'One Day At A Time'... A little short on tracks with only nine songs, is the contribution from the 'Stuttering Boy' himself, Mel Tillis, who tells us 'Not In Front Of The Kids' and 'Home Is Where The Hurt Is' (GT 0047).

The Music Goes On

● Another style of music well catered for by Starday & Gusto is bluegrass. Among the many exponents of this music to be found are Mac Wiseman, Jimmy Martin, Reno & Smiley, The Stanley Brothers, Flatt & Scruggs etc. Mac Wiseman's 'Golden Classics' (GT 0049) is a real gem, featuring the perennial 'Jimmie Brown The Newsboy', as well as the tongue in cheek 'Johnny's Cash And Charley's Pride', while Jimmy Martin's 'Greatest Bluegrass Hits' (GT 0003) includes Monroe's 'Blue Moon Of Kentucky' and 'Uncle Pen', alongside his biggie, 'Widow Maker'. 'The Best Of The Delmore Brothers' (SLP 962), has a recurrent train theme running through numbers such as 'Pan American Boogie', 'Tennessee Choo Choo' and 'Midnight Special', while Reno & Smiley's 'Country Singing' (KLP 776) includes 'Jimmy Caught The Dickens' and 'I Wouldn't Change You If I Could', among its many fine tracks. Flatt & Scruggs' 'Golden Hits', of course, wouldn't be complete without the ever popular 'Foggy Mountain Breakdown'.

Instrumentally Yours

● Instrumental fans have been well catered for by Gusto, with individual albums devoted to the dobro (SLP 340), featuring such virtuosos as Bashful Brother Oswald, Shot Jackson & Deacon Brumfield. Steel guitar fans will love 'Stars Of The Steel Guitar' (SLP 350), with such luminaries as Pete Drake, Jimmy Day and Little Roy Wiggins etc.

● Fans of the banjo should also be well pleased with Curtis McPeake's 'Duelling Banjos' (PO 236), while fiddle fanatics will enjoy '16 Greatest Fiddlers' Hits' (SD 3014), with 'Still On The Hill' by Howdy Forrester, 'Black Mountain Rag' by Curly Fox and 'Drag That Fiddle' by Harry Choates numbered among the fine tunes and fiddlers on it.

Gone But Not To Be Forgotten

● Three great artists who died together in a plane crash are brought together on 'Gone But Not Forgotten' (SLP 346), which features the talents of Patsy Cline, Hawkshaw Hawkins and Lloyd Cowboy Copas. The latter two artists also have their own respective '16 Greatest Hits' packages. SD 3013 includes Hawkshaw Hawkins' theme song 'Sunny Side Of The Mountain' along with 'Lonesome 7-7203' and 'Slow Poke', while SD 3012 includes 'Filipino Baby', 'Copas Wildwood Flower' and 'Hillbilly Heaven' by Cowboy Copas.

On The Move

● One of the strongest features of the Gusto catalogue is its trucking songs. Their compilation albums feature some of the best truckin' music around, such as 'Trucks, Trains And Aeroplanes' (GT 0081), '16 Great Truck Driver Hits' (SD 3024) and 'Cowboys And Trucks' (GT 0082).

In The Charts

● Besides the aforementioned George Jones, other artists with releases on Gusto who are still charting in the USA are Dottie West (GT 0085), with a Patsy Cline influenced album: the Father/Daughter duo, The Kendalls (GT 0001) come up with a folk, pop, country sound and Country 'outlaw' Johnny Paycheck tells us 'He's The Only Hell (Mama Ever Raised)' on his 'Golden Classics' album (GT 0098). He certainly still seems to make the headlines as often as he makes the charts.

● I hope this small taster has whetted your appetite and that you, along with me, hope Crusader Marketing will be tempted to delve deeper into the wide-ranging music to be found in the Starday & Gusto catalogues.

CLASS OF '55"

PERKINS •
LEWIS •
ORBISON •
CASH •



● IT was a cool September day when Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Roy Orbison entered the Sun Studios at 706 Union Avenue, Memphis, to be warmly greeted by producer Sam Phillips and studio engineer Jack Clements.

● It should have been the year 1955, but it wasn't, it was 1985. Memphis trapped in a time warp. As the four rockabilly legends paced around the small

18 x 30 foot studio, memories of 'Hey Porter', 'Blue Suede Shoes', 'Whole Lotta Shakin' and 'Ooby Dooby' flooded back to enhance this feeling of going back in time, but a glance through the window to see the imposing new tech mobile recording studio reminded the stars that they were not here to reminisce, but to work on a new album, the brainchild of another Memphis legend, Chips Moman.

● Moman, a songwriter/producer/guitarist/musical genius for thirty years, was no stranger to bringing stars together. It was he who assembled Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson

and Kris Kristofferson for the number one rated 'Highwayman' album. It was whilst working on that project that Cash gave him the idea for this Memphis reunion.

● 'The Class Of '55' is not, as you may suspect, a rehashing of old rockabilly hits, but a collection of contemporary songs, all with the facility to transport the listener back thirty years in musical time. Really it is a modern soundtrack to a period play yet to be staged. A concept of an era rather than of individuals.

● The curtain raises on Carl Perkins, who sets the mood with 'Birth Of Rock And Roll', a bopping

number that briefly catalogues the events of the fifties. Jerry Lee Lewis enters next, to establish his own bluesy style of honky tonk with 'Sixteen Candles', then Perkins re-enters with 'Class Of '55', an emotional longing for the things of yesteryear. All four legends take centre stage now for the contemporary country rocker 'Waymore's Blues' and the first act ends with Cash's deep baritone leading the cast into the mighty gospel 'We Remember The King'.

● As the curtain raises for the second and final act, the spotlight falls on Roy Orbison, who is performing his only solo, 'Coming Home', a strong number that has

the potential of a pop hit. He remains on stage to be joined by Jerry Lee Lewis to duet on the foot stomping 'Rock And Roll'. Roy leaves old Jerry to solo on 'Keep My Motor Running', a rocker in the classic Lewis style. The man in black, Johnny Cash, is next, with an updated version of his 'I Will Rock And Roll With You', then it's time for the grand finale.

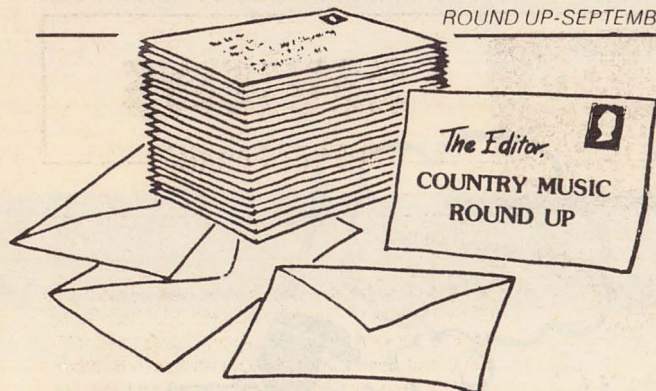
● All four of our legends are joined by Sam Phillips, Jack Clement, Rick Nelson, John Fogerty, Dave Edmunds, June Carter and the Judds for a rousing version of Fogerty's 'Big Train From Memphis' during which the audience can pick up strains of

'Blue Suede Shoes', 'Folsom Prison Blues', 'Whole Lotta Shakin' and 'Ooby Dooby'. A fitting end to a tremendous show. Naturally the players receive an enthusiastic standing ovation. There are cries for more, then I open my eyes and there's just me, on my feet, facing the record player and applauding like crazy.

● I may have had little luck with the 'Sandman' over the years, but Chips Moman can certainly make my dreams come true.

● 'The Class Of '55' is available on America/Smash Records in album, cassette or compact disc format.

Pete Smith.



YOUR LINE IN COUNTRY

Dear Editors

When will people like D Whitby of Liverpool ('CMRU' July 1986) realise that you cater for thousands of country music fans and not just him alone? In my opinion, I think the balance of articles on American artistes is already too much in their favour and not enough on our British artistes. Even if he is not interested in what's going on in Cornwall or Tyne and Wear, I'm sure there are many like myself who are. I'm always interested to read how my own personal favourites and friends amongst the British artistes have gone down in the various parts of the country, but I suppose I'm just one of the far too few who realise that we have our own first class artistes and musicians in this country and until more waken up to that fact, the country music scene in this country will remain the same.

Month after month I read through the letters and the majority are all in the same vein. 'If I don't like it, it's not country.' 'If I don't like a particular artiste, he or she should not appear at Wembley.' 'If I don't wear western gear, nobody else should.'

I read all the letters regarding Wembley. Some said Johnny Cash was the best, some said George Jones and so it goes. Everybody has their own opinion, but never think of writing. In my opinion, Johnny Cash was the best.

I saw all the shows at Wembley and the highlight for me was Connie Smith, but I didn't write up and say she was, even though I thought it, as I realise many would disagree, but I appreciate they are entitled to their own opinion.

So, please future letter writers, when expressing your views, just realise it's just your opinion and that shows are organised for thousands of people. Also realise that papers are printed for thousands of readers and not just for you alone.

Albert E Dearnley
33 Church Road
Uppermill, Oldham, Lancashire.

PS: I'm surprised you haven't already made this clear Colin!

□□□□□□

Dear Editors

Mick Green's article on the proposed levy on blank tapes in the July issue was very thought provoking.

However, he omitted one aspect which I am sure is relevant to many Country Music collectors, namely

that many albums (especially US imports) are only available on record. Their non-availability means that tape enthusiasts are obliged to purchase the album and then transfer it to tape. This involves extra expense, is also illegal, and the quality (from my experience) is not as good as the commercially produced cassette of the album.

I am an avid collector of Merle Haggard and have had this problem with imports. It is also worth noting that the current MCA releases (including 4 Hag) commendable as they are - are not available on cassette.

Finally I am sure that readers will be interested to know that Hag and Willie have a new album, 'A Shotgun And A Pistol' on Epic 26943 for release. If it is half as good as 'Pancho and Lefty' it will be a cracker.

Yours faithfully
Michael Clark
2 Dunmar Crescent
Alloa, Scotland

□□□□□□

Dear Editors

In reply to Larry Drummond's column (August issue) regarding the production of country recordings, the Jeannie and Steppinstone Volume II tape, including 'Say It Again' was, I assume, recorded on a low budget, and sounds excellent to me.

This music is mellow, but has a raw edge which, I think, is the real country sound. The group have a sound of their own, and anyone who likes Juice Newton and early Linda Ronstadt will enjoy Jeannie's singing, while her choice of songs is totally country.

By contrast, the style of production on Rosanne Cash's 'Rhythm And Romance' shows that spending lots of money doesn't always make an album any more interesting to listen to - being all gloss and no depth - so it has not compelled me to listen frequently to pick out obscure details, the way my favourite albums do, and also I suspect Rosanne's live music is more powerful.

Yours sincerely
John M Cooper
24 Tennyson Close
Woodbridge, Suffolk

□□□□□□

Dear Editors

Sunday 6th July (9.10 pm), Oldham Conservative Club, Union Street, Oldham. Ben Lee Rivers, saddle sore and walking a bit like John Wayne, arrived back after his eight day cycling marathon from Oldham to Lands End and back, to raise money for the Nuffield House Centre for the Mentally Handicapped. He was just ten minutes late according to his scheduled return, after approximately 750 miles in the saddle.

Last October, Ben pledged he would raise £9,000 to purchase transport for the centre. Up to the start of the cycle ride he had already raised £4,000 and he hopes by the time he gathers in the proceeds of his ride, the figure will be around £5,000, a great effort by a great guy. He still has a long way to go, but knowing Ben, he will make it.

I'm sure Ben would appreciate any help anyone would care to give to assist him to reach his goal, like having a collection at your local club, or holding a raffle and forwarding the proceeds to the Transport Appeal, Nuffield House, Wellyhole Street, Oldham, Lancs.

□□□□□□

Dear Editors

One hears, from time to time, of acts and bands who let venues down by not showing up. As professional entertainers of long standing, we would like it to be known, that it is not always the venues and promoters who are 'let down'.

Earlier this year, we had a call from a Mr John Waterman of the Guernsey CMC, who asked us if we would appear at his club in Guernsey, on 20 July and 3 August this year. We said we would love to, and agreed a fee.

After receiving no confirmation or further information from Mr Waterman, we called him to see if he still required our services, only to be told that things were not so good, and could we forget July, but still appear in August. Although we had to hurriedly find replacement work for the July week-end, we agreed. Once again, nothing from Mr Waterman.

After many calls, we were finally told that things were still not so good, and could we please reduce our fee. (by no means excessive) and he would find us other work on the southern mainland. Mr Waterman would arrange all this and call us back.

We repeatedly tried to contact Mr Waterman, without success, and he made no effort to contact us. We could have had at least four days' work at home, but thanks to Mr Waterman, we are the losers.

Don't call us again Mr Waterman and we promise not to call you! Other acts please beware.

Ken & Billie Ford
32 Hartburn Village
Stockton, Cleveland.

□□□□□□

Dear Editors

I would like to comment on a couple of letters that appeared in the August issue of 'CMRU'.

Firstly, with reference to the letter from Bob Hathaway of Skyhigh Records about the lack of coverage for Canadian artistes. In the past two years, at least twenty Canadian artistes have had their albums reviewed in 'CMRU' and several of these have been the subject of special features. Could Mr Hathaway tell me how many British artistes have received the same amount of coverage in the Canadian music press?

From my experience as a contributor to a major national Canadian country music magazine, the only interest British country music holds over there is in relation to what visiting Canadian artistes did while performing in this country. As the writer of the majority of the Canadian record reviews that have appeared in 'CMRU', yes, I would love more space for them, but then that applies to the British,

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Australian, Czechoslovakian, etc., albums I also review. Hopefully one day we shall have a bigger 'pot' to fit that mixed quart into, but until then we shall just have to be satisfied with what we have.

With regards to Richard Dudgeon's letter about Australian county music on radio. Australian records don't get played because they are not usually available to the DJs here. As most country DJs are usually crying out for new material, I'm sure that if the records were available they would get air-play. I recently presented an Australian special on Kelvin Henderson's BBC Radio 'Country Tempo' programme, during which Kelvin stated that he would like to play more Aussie material, but unless more records were forthcoming, then his small collection of Aussie records would soon be used up.

In closing, I would like to thank Arthur Pimblet for the kind remarks contained in his letter.

Cheers
Clive Wynes

Dear Editors

I am writing regarding the Country Jamboree at Gypsies Green, South Shields (5/6th July). As a member of the Diesel Cowboys Country Music Band, I would like to thank everyone concerned in organising this annual event. We were very well looked after by everyone, considering this was our first big date with the band. We very much enjoyed hearing some of the other bands and they are a great bunch of guys and gals behind the stage.

Special thanks to Paul Templeman and Lesley and her friend, also Leon and Joan Moat, without whom it would not have been possible to organise the event.

And finally, thanks to 'CMRU'. Where would we be without you all? Fingers crossed, hope to see you all next year.

Yours in country
Diesel Cowboys
15 West End, Chatton, Alnwick,
Northumberland.

Dear Editors

Further to my telephone call, I should be most grateful if you could find space to run a small piece about Johnny Spencer in your next issue.

During the night of 15/16th July, Johnny Spencer, the well known singer/songwriter, had all his equipment stolen from his car outside his home in Bristol. The thieves even took his clothes, other personal effects and ripped out the stereo from his car.

Johnny is most upset about his Yamaha guitar which he has had for many years. If anyone can offer help with equipment, or information leading to the recovery of his gear, please contact either Bristol (0272) 717889 or Worthing (0903) 207387. Thanking you in advance.

Veronica Burns
14 Christchurch Road
Worthing, West Sussex.

To find out more about copy dates and rates for advertising, ring (0522) 41546.

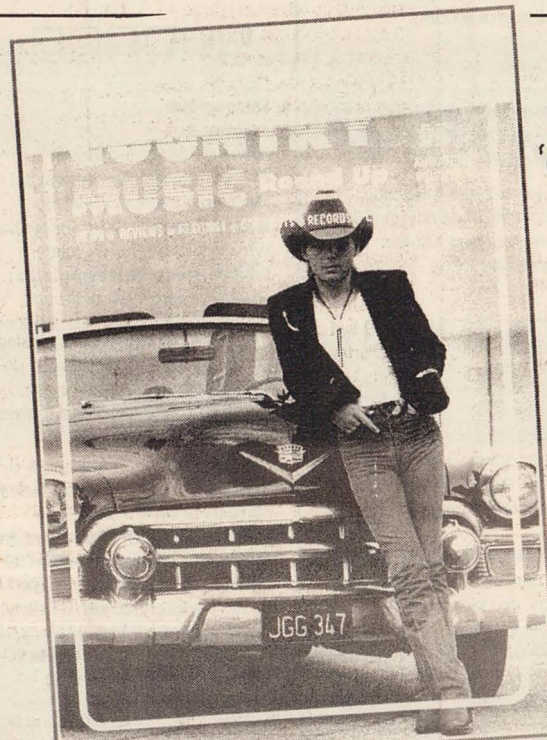
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Publishers warning: 'Country Music Round Up' can seriously involve you with all that goes on in country music.

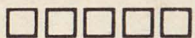
Dear 'Country Music Round Up' Readers

We were really pleased that Carroll Baker received a nomination in your 'International Female Vocalist' category (particularly in such strong company).

This nomination was a 'first' for her. As you might expect, she is always nominated in Canada for these awards, but it's a real plus to receive recognition in another country. Another 'first' came from Australia, where she received Gold for her 'Hymns Of Gold' album, her first Gold outside Canada. The same album went Platinum in Canada and her current single 'I'm Taking Care Of Myself' is (at press date) number twelve in Canada.

So, all in all, she's had a sensational year. This international nomination is the icing on the cake!

Sincerely
J Edward Preston (President)
Tembo Music Canada Inc.
225 Mutual Street, Toronto, Canada



Dear Editors

Many thanks for the article 'Skiffle Night', by Roy Kerridge (August 1986). It took me back thirty years, to when Lonnie Donegan, and the Vipers were in their heyday.

However, I couldn't understand why Mr Kerridge couldn't understand some of the old Donegan lyrics; but then those 50's record players can't be compared with today's super hi-fi's.

The article raised some interesting questions, for me at any rate! Is the skiffle revival night a regular thing, or was it just a one-off? If the former, please let me know where I can get a ticket for the next show!

When and how did Bob Cort die? He was one of the first to introduce me to country music, (only I didn't know it then) via his 'Waterloo' (originally Stonewall Jackson) and 'Eight More Miles to Tomsville' (Grandpa Jones).

Can you please let me know the number of Chas Medwitt's 'Takes You Back, Don't It', and also the number of the re-issued Vipers album mentioned in July's 'Country Music Round Up'.

Many thanks
Viv Leyshon (An erstwhile skiffler)
Shepperton Close, Castlethorpe,
Milton Keynes.

Eds: Thanks for your comments Viv. We have passed your letter to our super-sleuth, Pete Smith, to answer your questions.

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Dear Editors

I would like to share a very nice experience. I had recently, with fellow readers of CMRU.

I bought a record on the Sundown label, which I found to be faulty. In my anger, I wrote a not very nice note of complaint to Magnum Music Group.

I received, by return post, a very nice letter from the director, Mr Molden, asking me to return the record to him, and if he found the record to be as I claimed, he would gladly replace it for me.

I'm very pleased to say, I received my replacement, and thanks to the very kind attention of Mr Molden, I've found a good British company, which not only caters for us country fans' taste in music, but also a genuine concern that the customer is satisfied.

My stetson's off to Magnum Music Group and Mr Nigel Molden.

Yours in anticipation
John J Mahon
24 West Peabody Bldgs.
Shadwell Est. Stepney
London E1.



Dear Editors

Having recently bought a copy of 'American Vagabond' by William Lee Golden, I was looking at the album cover and I wondered if anyone else had noticed the striking resemblance between William Lee and 'Chewbacca' of 'Star Wars'.

Just in case you read this, Bill, only joking.

Yours
D Scatcherd
27 Bruns Street, Mansfield, Notts.



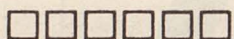
Dear Editors

In connection with the Lyme Park Festival, Stockport, which took place on the 2 and 3 August, we should like to thank all the artists, Cloud One Sound, radio stations, country music publications, Brian Ahern - Stage Manager, Charlie Teece - Compere, Alan & Mavis Kitchen, Jimmy Renshaw, plus all the behind-the-scenes staff, for all their assistance.

Also, a big thank you to all the people who attended from all over the country, from Scotland to Essex. Your support was really appreciated, and helped make the Festival such a success.

Whilst writing, we should also like to thank Lyme Park, in conjunction with Stockport Council, for financing the same and having faith in our beloved country music.

Here's to next year's Festival.
Pamela Smith and Eddie Daniels
50 Peregrine Road, Offerton Green,
Stockport, Cheshire.



Dear Editors

I would be very grateful indeed if you could print this in your next edition of 'Country Music Round Up' in the letters pages.

I am a collector of photographs and calling cards of bands, solos, duos and trios, so I would be very grateful if any bands, solos, duos and trios could pass on to me their photographs and calling cards.

Yours faithfully
Mr J J Clay
61 Studland Close
Millbrook, Southampton.

Eds: Your other query has been passed on to our country music sleuth Pete Smith.

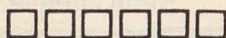
Dear Editors

Having first read in the August Tri - Son News bulletin, of the tragic death of George Strait's daughter on 25 June, wouldn't you think this would be the more likely reason for him to pull out of the Peterborough Festival, rather than him being a target for terrorists?

I'm sure the organisers and fans would have understood his decision, if the death of his daughter, Jenifer was the sole reason.

Yours sincerely
Frank Duckett
10 Heather Way, Rose Hill
Marple, Stockport.

Eds: Nice thought Frank, but the sad loss of George's daughter happened some four weeks after he'd pulled from the Peterborough Festival date.



Dear Editors

I read of the sad news in August 'CMRU' of the demise of more country music programmes in Leeds, Sheffield and Humber. However, all is not doom and gloom, as I have just been informed that my programme is being re-scheduled and moved from 50 minutes on a Wednesday evening, to 1½ hours - 12.30 - 2 o'clock - every Saturday, from the 6 September.

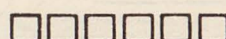
Hopefully I shall keep the many friends I have made on my Wednesday show, and look forward to making many more. I know the programme is heard over a large area, as I have letters from as far afield as Mid Wales, Barrow-in-Furness, Liverpool, Worcester, and many more.

If any of 'CMRU' readers are listeners to the programme, I should be delighted to hear from them. I wonder who my most distant listener is?

Going back to the sad news, may I suggest that, as radio stations do take notice of their listeners, do write in to the stations who are dropping the programmes. It is really up to you, and you never know, it may have the desired effect.

Keep up the excellent work with 'CMRU'. I find it a delight to read and most informative.

Best regards
Colin Critchlow.
Producer/Presenter,
Sounds Country.
BBC Radio Stoke on Trent
Conway House, Cheapside
Hanley, Stoke on Trent



Dear Editors

I have never written to your excellent publication before, but I feel I must express in words, something which really annoys me. Why is it, that when DJ's on national radio are introducing a country record, they persist in putting on a false American accent (usually deep south), or come out with such drivel as: 'that was Ricki Skaggs and he's just a little ol' country boy'?

The average man in the street still thinks that a country music concert consists of Dolly Parton, Don Williams, and Crystal Chandeliers. Even on local radio, an advert for the Morecambe Country Music Festival was ended with a hearty 'Ya Hoo, y'all come now!'. We will never educate the people of Britain to the new sounds of modern country music while the media still has its head firmly buried in the sand.

Yours in country
Robert Bryant, 97 Davenport Ave.
Crewe, Cheshire.

Dear Editors

This is really two letters in one. First, I would like to reply to D Whitby from Liverpool whose letter appears in July's edition of 'CMRU'.

There are several magazines on the market which deal quite fully (and almost exclusively) with the international scene - news and interviews, I subscribed to one for several years before feeling the need to expand my horizons, especially in respect of British artists. I tried a couple of other publications before hearing of 'CMRU' when Sean Doherty (South East Regional) guested on Essex Radio's 'Country Club' together with his Mother, for a special programme about his Father. Being a relative newcomer to country and western music, I hadn't even heard of Al Doherty and found his music a real treat!

I still keep in touch with what the international artists are doing, new artists, old favourites, live interviews, the lot, through Radio Two's 'Country Club' (7 pm Thursdays), which you must be able to pick up too, and one of our local radio stations, Radio London.

Radio Kent and Essex Radio also do some coverage of international affairs, but also give us a lot of local coverage. (Well Essex did until it underwent major surgery 'for the summer'. We're all praying for a complete recovery very soon!) It's thanks to these stations I was able to hear your own Hillsiders. I couldn't make it to one of their live appearances here recently, but hope to see them one day. I'm sure a big city like Liverpool must have radio coverage at least the equal of ours. Have a listen!

The point of the regional news items is surely to provide news for people living in, or near, or proposing to visit different areas, of what's happening in their neck of the woods. Dividing it means items which would not be of general interest can be included in a way which allows each member to select what interests him or her easily. For instance, and this also brings me to the second part of my letter, I was looking forward to seeing a small report on the first Purfleet Country Music Festival. Not an earth-shattering event, but I enjoyed it and hope it will gain more support in years to come. I was also looking forward to taking it to the newly formed Stonehouse Creek CWC, whose organiser helped to organise the Festival.

But, where is Sean this month? I hope only on holiday and perhaps next month I'll be lucky? This is my only disappointment so far with 'CMRU'. I enjoy all the magazine and love attempting the competitions. I don't know enough to have entered any yet, but thank you for printing the answers, I learn a lot that way! So you see, it's not only you 'dyed-in-the-wool' experts the Editors cater for D Whitby, it's also 'Country Bumpkins' like me. Please have patience with us. They're doing a good job of pleasing 'most of the people most of the time' as far as I can see.

Thank you Editors and staff.
Yours in country friendship.
Mrs J M Gibson
Hall Avenue, Aveley, Essex.



Dear Editors

I hope you don't mind me writing to you confirming we have just formed and opened The Chuck Layburn Fan Club. All of Chuck's fans, and myself, would most appreciate and be very grateful, if you would give our newly formed club a mention in your Country Music Round Up.

Yours in country
Tony Wilkinson
3 Latchmere Crest
Moorgrange, Leeds.

Eds: We have done it together Tony. Better tell everyone to send SAE too.



YOUR LINE IN COUNTRY

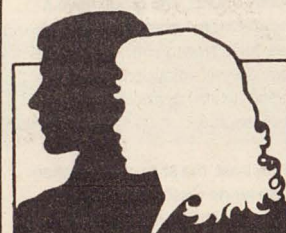
LETTER OF THE MONTH PRIZE

Each month now we shall be sending a new country single to the letter which the Editors consider to be the most interesting reading for whatever reason.

It can be funny, sad, irate, complimentary, or anything else.

If you need a reply send a SAE to the Editors.

'Country Music Round Up',
286/287 High Street,
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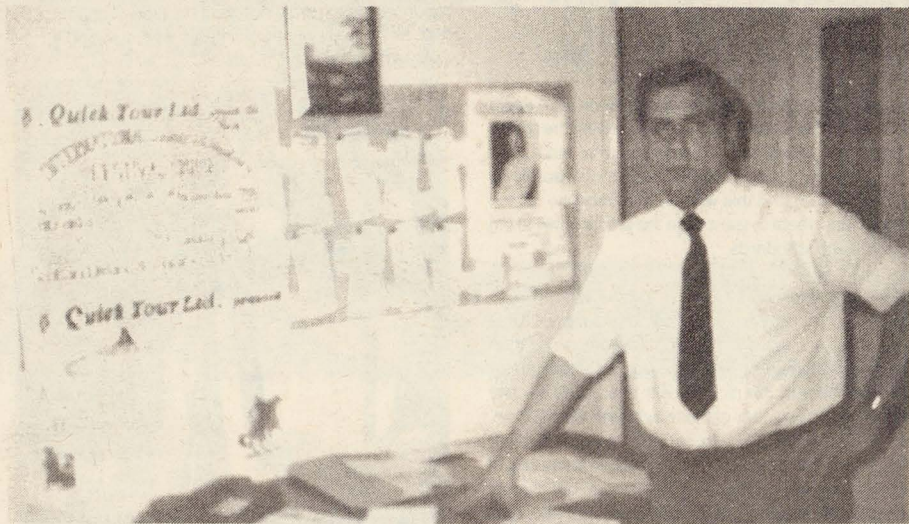
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COUNTRY SAILING

● OVER the years we have carried various advertising for different kinds of country music events. Among the more unusual innovations have been the Country Music Cruises, organised by Quick Tour Ltd. Impressed by the success of this concept, we spoke to Quick Tour Ltd's Managing Director, Alan Clout, who told us:-



● 'Quick Tour Ltd. was incorporated into a group travel company in 1983, its objectives being to provide a specialist travel service for companies, clubs, sports' associations and schools, or educational establishments. The directors, having been directly or indirectly involved in the travel business for over twelve years, are fully aware of the many problems encountered when trying to organise groups, irrespective of size, to go away on holidays, sports meetings/exchanges, educational trips etc. Therefore, we aim to take away a lot of the worries and problems for these group organisers (eg. how to get there, the cheapest routes or tickets, hotels, what's on while they are on holiday, places to see, festivals, booking ships or trains, coaching etc.). These can all be very hard to deal with when you don't know where to start. We do all this for you, plus we can also provide any special facilities required, especially for companies or educational tours.

● We appreciate that most people want a good, relaxing holiday for one or two weeks, at home or abroad. On the other hand, a very large majority of the working population like a break, a short trip to ease the tension of everyday life. This is why many holiday companies now provide mini-weekends or 'tension-breakers'. But, hopefully, ours are different, because many people who like a weekend or few days away, also want the opportunity of seeing top entertainment by their favourite artists.

● Our most popular events on this theme are the mini-cruises to Sweden. We provide the theme (eg country music, jazz, Caribbean-with steel bands, sounds of the sixties and many others). These are the most popular because they enable people, once settled into their cabins, to relax and enjoy the leisurely atmosphere on board. The bars open once we sail and stay open 'til very late, so there's no need to panic to get the last one in before they close. Good food is available from the cafeteria, which is open most of the day, or passengers can sit down and enjoy first class meals at very reasonable prices in the main restaurant and, last but not least, they can enjoy top entertainment for up to twenty hours over three days, all at a very good price, plus the advantages of a duty free offer before they go ashore.

● Last year's was our first Country Music Cruise, but it was so successful that almost everyone said, 'Can't you make it longer, three days isn't enough! So, this year we have, as well as adding even more top artists! But, it's selling very fast, which speaks for itself!! Obviously, if this one is also a great success, we shall look into a longer cruise next year, featuring even more top line artists.'

WE HAVE MOVED

A Division of Ricky McCabe Entertainments Limited

R.M.C. PROMOTIONS

R.M.C. Promotions, probably the fastest growing Country Music Agency in the UK, are pleased to announce our change of address, contact us at our new suite of offices:-

**3rd. Floor, 16 Crosby North, Waterloo,
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We are pleased to have been the sole bookers for the Typhoo Tea/Liverpool Music Festival, sole bookers for the country concerts throughout 1986 at the Queens Hall, Widnes and sole bookers for the Radio City Sixth Country Music Jamboree at Aughton Chase, Ormskirk, Lancashire.

We have been associated with the 'UK New Country' album, voted 'Album Of The Month' in the August edition of 'CMRU'. The album was produced by Joe Butler and all the acts appearing on the album are represented by this office:- Ben Rees, Stroller, White Line Fever, Harvey and Iona & Andy.

We are sole representatives of Liverpool's fabulous Hillsiders (through personal manager Derek Royal) and Wild & Wooley.

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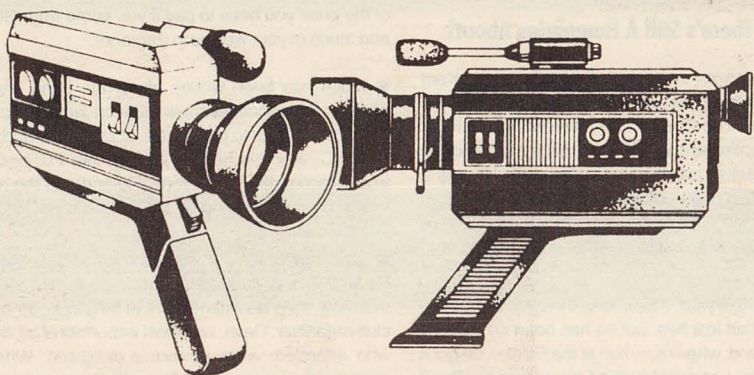
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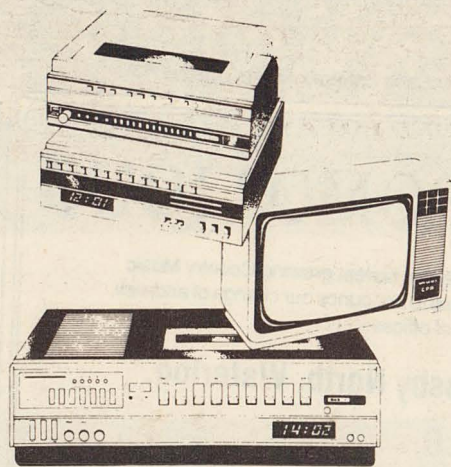
- You can find us at Peterborough International Country Music Festival on the 'Country Music Round Up' Hospitality Unit or give us a call at Studio One . . .

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THE STATLERS ome video

● THE Statlers, unquestionably one of the country music's main attractions, are to be released on video for the first time by Polygram, on 11 September 1986, to the delight of their devoted fans.

Brothers in Song, a twenty minute programme, recorded in stereo hi-fi, features this world famous country music band, performing six of their very best numbers, including the nostalgic, 'Sweeter

THE STATLERS BROTHERS IN SONG (US/1985)

The Statlers are: Harold & Don Reid, Phil Baisley, Jimmy Fortune.

Tracks: 'Sweeter and Sweeter', 'My Only Love', 'Elizabeth', 'Whatever', 'Atlantic Blue', 'Guilty'.

Running Time: Approx 19 minutes, stereo hi-fi.

Catalogue No: 041 422/2(VHS)/4(BETA)

Release Date: 11 September, 1986

And 'Sweeter': the wedding day memories of 'My Only Love', voted Song of the Year and Traditional Ballad of the Year for 1985; the touching 'Elizabeth', voted Song of the Year for 1984 by Music City News; plus 'Whatever', 'Atlantic Blue', and 'Guilty'.

ROUND UP NEWS FILE

GORDIE AND MARIKE TOUR TOGETHER

● CURRENTLY undertaking a limited date tour with Britain's favourite Calgary Cowboy Gordie West, is Marike Johnsson. In a little over four years, Marike's albums have been voted 'Album Of The Month' in the Netherlands, France and England.

● Marike made her first album in 1981 when she was barely sixteen years old. The LP, 'Horsepower' was a big success, as was her single 'Turn Away', a song she still sings on each show as her interpretation of how a show should be opened. Although Marike didn't perform in person in France, the song made it into the French charts.

● Back in 1984, she also recorded an album in Swedish and 'Det Som Sker' did well for her. Also in 1984 she recorded a

Christmas LP, half in Swedish, half in English. It is to be expected that 'God Jul Fran Marike' will sell well again before Christmas 1986.

● Marike has appeared on a great number of radio and TV shows in Sweden and Finland, plus being featured on the BRT Belgium. Her first big show for radio, however, took place when Marike was only seventeen years old. In Holland, she recorded for TROS, in a show with Lee Greenwood.

● In music most of her life, Marike first took piano lessons aged six. After finishing school, she went on to study music and she just recently graduated successfully. She's now on a tour that will last six months, with concerts in Norway, England and Czechoslovakia on her date sheet.

● As a crowd pleaser, Marike is now strongly in demand by military forces from various nations, as she's a popular entertainer amongst American, Dutch and British forces.



MOGDYS' TOUR

● NORTH Carolina's popular family band, Carlton Moody & The Moody Brothers continue their fast developing relationship with the British country music market via a five week tour, beginning this month.

● A clear indication of The Moody Brothers' (Carlton, David and Trent) success in Britain is revealed by their nomination in the 'Most Promising International Act' category of the 1986 International Country Music Awards Poll. This is backed up by steady sales of their album 'Cotton Eyed Joe' (Sundown SDLP 032), which features their 1985 Grammy nominated title track and is currently being marketed as part of Woolworth's Country Music Campaign.

● In the USA, Carlton Moody & The Moody Brothers have recently achieved their latest Country Chart success with their single 'Midnight Flyer' and have just completed recording a new album in the Lamon Studios, Charlotte, North Carolina.

● The forthcoming visit takes in the following dates:-
September
12 Broughton Gifford, Wilts.
13 Festival Hall, Basildon
14 Football Club, Witney
17 Spirals, Bristol
18 City Arms, York
19 High Lane, Stockport
20 Durham
21/21 Butlin's, Ayr
23 Ick Rink, Inverness
25 Brighton CMC
26 Verbeer Manor, Cullompton
27 Ellesmere Port
28 Norfolk Opry
30 Bramley Club, Rotherham

October
1 TBA
2 Dorman's Social Club, Middlesbrough
3 Durlia Club, Darlington
4 Butlin's, Barry Island
6 Half Moon, Putney
8 Aintree, Liverpool
9/11 Country Festival, Prague
12 Cabaret Club, Newmarket
13 London Road Club, St Albans
14 Civil Service Club, Bournemouth

Ross Records,
29 Main Street,
Turriff,
Aberdeenshire.

NEW ALBUM RELEASES

Lore & The Legends
'One Step Ahead Of The Law' - £5.99
Noel Cannon
'Your Carolina Buddy'
(tracks include I.O.U., Outlaw's Prayer,
Colorado, Cool-Aide etc.) - £4.99
Ruby Rendall
'Never Look Back' - £4.99

All available on LP and cassette.
Postage 75p - 1 LP£1.25 - 2 LPs, £1.50 - 3 LPs.
Cassettes - 25p each.
Send £1 for full country listings

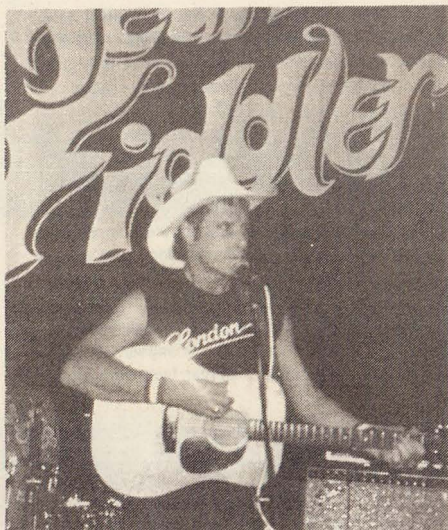
IT'S GREEN IN THE COUNTRY

● ALL too often, it seems to me, many of us involved in country music appear to spend too much of our time looking back on great acts and great songs from years ago that are now really history. I'm not saying the past is not important, because it most definitely is, but it's the future of country music that most of us should surely be concentrating on and this worries me, because, all too often the fans seem to want to tie the artists down to old favourites and standards.

● All is not lost, of course, because some acts refuse to be tied down to someone else's set formula, even if this means that rejection is a more regular companion than success. This month I'd like to put you in the picture (or rather put them in the picture, with the aid of my tiny camera) on the way four of these acts (two from Britain, two from America) have to struggle to exist through trying to promote their own music. I never knew any of these guys before I heard their music, but, because of my respect for it, I like to think of them all now as mates of mine, so if you think this report is biased, you're right!

Midnight 'Sun' Special

● The first time I went to Nashville, Joe Sun was one of those friendly guys who went out of his way to make me feel welcome, helped me make connections and showed me around. He was riding pretty high at the time with 'Old Flames' in the charts, but still found the time.



● Joe Sun at the Mean Fiddler

● He might have written his autobiography in 'Bombed, Booze and Busted', but I recently had the pleasure of catching him and Solar System at the Mean Fiddler in London and the place was absolutely packed, the basically young audience enthralled and enthusiastic for the band's raunchy delivery of excellent country rock.

● Over the years Joe's style has changed and he now delivers the lyrics more in the style of a blues shouter, biting off the words as they come out. Sometimes he seems to be shouting from sheer enjoyment, other times from pain or frustration, but mainly, I think he is shouting to see if anyone out there in the music business is still listening!

● But, make no mistake about it, this band gives a new meaning to the words 'solar power'. The bass and drums are solid as a rock and the lead guitar of Joe Khoury is simply superb, not only musically, but also visually, as he inter-reacts with Joe Sun. As I said, Joe's voice reminds me of a blues shouter and the expressions on his face as he sings, show he has known the blues more than once or twice.

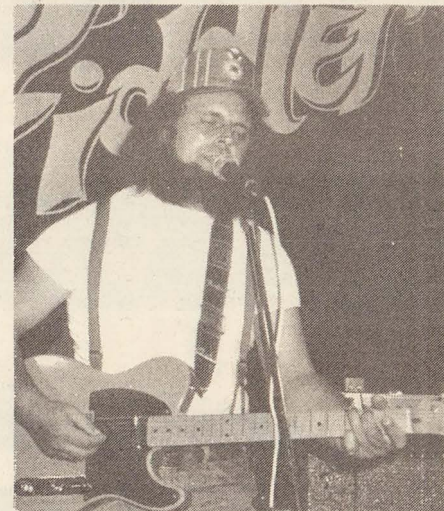
● As always, original songs are presented, along with different versions of country classics and the programme may be more suitable for 'Whistle Test' than your average country music club, but I find it excellent modern country music. At one time it looked as if fortune was smiling at Joe Sun, but, unfortunately, it wasn't smiling, merely suffering from wind! But, Joe keeps plugging away, not just here but in the States and Europe and, as one of the songs he always features says, he's 'Ready For The Times To Get Better'. I really hope so because I, for one, would hate to see an eclipse of the Sun!

Watch Out, There's Still A Humphries About!

● Roger Humphries is a local of mine from the Kent side of London and I first heard him years ago, playing a local pub called The Cherry Tree. The music was loud, vibrant and exciting and was one of the reasons I began to believe in British country music, because he was a one-off and not trying to be a carbon copy of American country music stars. Over the years, many things have altered, but I am pleased to say that one of them isn't Roger!

● At one time this year, it looked as if the British country music scene had lost him, but he has been on the tour with Joe Sun and, when I saw him at the Fiddler, he got a great reception. I particularly liked his own song 'Don't You Lie To Me' and his version of Rodney Crowell's 'Til I Gain Control Again'.

● Roger has just done that, gained control of his own career. In the autumn of this year he is putting together a tour of the British clubs (where his music is usually appreciated) with a new band. He explained that, in the past, he had been in the hands of others who had put him in venues that did not want his type of country rock and, as he quite rightly says, this was no good for the club, him, or the band.



● Roger Humphries on tour with Joe Sun

● So far Roger has fitted in around thirty dates for the autumn tour. In the meantime, he is filling in with solo spots in Europe and odd gigs over here with bands, plus songwriting, about which he is getting quite excited as, not only does he hope to record some himself, but Canadian Dick Damron has also said he may put a couple on his next album, which is quite remarkable as Damron has never recorded anything other than his own songs.

● I'm sure a lot of us are grateful it wasn't a case of Roger... and out! Keep that fresh air blasting, mate!

A Lore Unto Himself

● I first met Lore of Lore & The Legends quite by chance when I visited a dude ranch run by his 'in-lores' in 1984. The band were playing at the ranch and then again, by chance, they were the support act to The Maines Brothers when I saw them the following night. They impressed me from the very start, because, again, they were playing original Texas music in their own particular way.

● Last year they appeared at the Peterborough Country Music Festival, where, musically and visually, they were very effective and made a great impression. Then tragedy struck the band when one of the members died. When I saw them earlier this year, only Lore and the drummer remained from the line-up which appeared at that Festival last year and they were rehearsing hard to get their show back up to its previous high standard.

● Lore and his music strike me as a sort of modern Marty Robbins, writing songs about the West. One of those songs will be the title track of a new album, to be released over here on the Colt label (No. 2002), which is distributed by Nightflite. It's called 'One Step Ahead Of The Law' and should be available in time for their appearance at this year's Peterborough Festival.

● I haven't got a copy yet, but judging by the show I saw, I expect it to feature western-theme songs like 'Plains Of Madalene', 'Billy The Kid', 'Silver Spurs' and 'Bandito'. But, also listen out for 'Pearly Gates', 'Born To Roll' and the bluesy 'I'm Gonna Cry', as they all impressed me back in June. Of course the band is not all about new songs in the country rock vein, it also features yodels and classics like 'Your Cheating Heart', 'Cotton Eyed Joe' etc., and a lead guitarist called Austin, who not only knows his way around the frets of a guitar, but has also modified one to give a banjo effect which he calls 'guitjo'.

● One of the songs Lore features in Texas is 'No One To Sing For But The Band', but he looks the business and, with his huge frame, long cloak and stage presence to go with his music, I'm sure he's just being modest. A Texan modest? If you believe that you'd believe anything!

Country Music Can Be Hellraising

● To make any impression on the British country music scene you simply have to put yourself about a bit and when that happens, some of the 'hellraising' will be done by those left at home, even if your name is the Louisiana Hellraisers. But, time away from home is part of the price you have to pay if you come from Glasgow and much of your work is in England!

● Much has been written about the band lately, so perhaps the sacrifices have all been worthwhile. I was fortunate enough to catch them at an excellent club, the H-Bar-C, which is held at Wokingham FC, and one I would recommend to anyone. Roland and the rest will make you welcome and he is not afraid to book new acts into the club.

● The show that night was recorded by Dave Nelson of Radio 210 and, if the programme comes out as well as the show, then his listeners are in for a treat, for both the club organiser, Dave, and most important of all, the fans who attended, were obviously delighted. What was pleasing for me was that, for once, I was on the same wavelength as those fans and the programme was basically contemporary country music. Keep it up, GLH.

Mick Green

ALTERNATIVE MUSIC ROUND UP

MAD RIVER

PARADISE BAR AND GRILL
Edsel ED 188

HARPY MAGNUM; PARADISE BAR AND GRILL; LOVE'S NOT THE WAY TO TREAT A FRIEND; LEAVE ME, STAY; COPPER PLATES; EQUINOX; THEY BROUGHT SADNESS; REVOLUTION'S IN MY POCKETS; ACADEMY CEMETERY; CHEROKEE QUEEN.

When a band write sleeve notes about a forty year old ten year old called Buddy Block Ball and a ten year old forty year old called Little Big Boy, or, in other words, a middle aged kid and an adolescent old man, it's difficult to sum up the courage to discover what they do on the actual record. Having eventually done so, I'm hard pressed to decide whether this is good music, written and performed by a bunch of lunatics, or good music, written and performed by a foursome far saner than I am. One constant factor is that it's definitely good music.

Buddy has a smelly dead fish-head wrapped in a brown paper bag in his pocket and the only food Little Boy has tasted in two years is a Japanese rubber hard boiled egg, but 'Paradise Bar And Grill' still manages to whet my appetite with its tasty menu of unique delights. Excellent songs (especially the title track and 'Cherokee Queen', which have the addition of steel guitar by someone called Banana and Jerry Corbitt (who once recorded a good album produced by Charlie Daniels) respectively), range in subject matter from motorcycles, this year's empty bed and boyhood in the blue Kentucky pines, to an elegy to a lady from the shiftless bum next door and the enlightening theory that Winston Churchill holds no meaning for the bird upon the ground.

Take my word that this really is a good album and not half as hazardous for the sanity as it sounds. After all, anyone who turns out to be the twenty year old father of both Buddy and Little Boy, remembering that the album was made in San Francisco and Berkeley (not the most stable of California communities), can't be all that crazy, can they?



BUDDY EMMONS

SINGS BOB WILLS
Sundown SDLP 033

DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS; BOTTLE BABY BOOGIE; BOOT HEEL DRAG; DEEP WATER; I NEEDED YOU; NEW ROAD UNDER MY WHEELS; ROLEY POLEY; IF NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS; FOUR, FIVE TIMES; TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR; TIME CHANGES EVERYTHING; END OF THE LINE.

Having avoided this set when first released by Flying Fish, dismissing it without prior hearing (naughty) as nothing more than a Nashville bastardisation of a great Texan music form, all I can say now is thank goodness for this reissue. I find, after all, it is a faithful recreation of the music, authentically played by top rate musicians and sung by Emmons in true Tommy Duncan style.

Emmons states that he is a 'solid Bob Wills fan' and that he 'even harboured a dream of someday becoming a Texas Playboy' which, while he never achieved that objective, Johnny Gimble (who plays fiddle on this album) did. One of the leading steel guitarists in the business pays heartfelt tribute to the 'King of Western Swing' and, although he also notes, 'I don't intend to give up my studio gig and become a vocalist', he does a fine job of it. Highly recommended and thanks Sundown for giving me a second chance with 'Buddy Emmons Sings Bob Wills'.

JON EMERY

HILLBILLY ROCK 'N' ROLL
Bear Family BFX 15208

HILLBILLY ROCK 'N' ROLL; BROWN BOOTS; BRING BACK LOVE; DELMORE TRILOGY (DELMORE BLUES); FAST FREIGHT TRAIN; ENDLESS RIVER; HILLBILLY JUKEBOX; BEER THIRTY; DUCHESS; STRANGERS IN THE DARK; LONG TRAIN HOME; ROCKIN' RONDA.

Jon Emery is one Austin, Texas resident I had no knowledge of until meeting him recently and obtaining this album, which just goes to prove how much fine music we miss out on by being so far removed from such consistently creative musical centres. In a place like Austin, there's so much talent that only a small percentage make their presence known in the outside world and the rest remain purely local heroes. But, thanks to Bear Family, the record is now being put straight as far as Jon is concerned.

Obviously a little influenced by the Austin scene, Jon combines driving rockabilly and the kind of hard country found on honky tonk jukeboxes into his style, to form a novel mixture that, by the way it's stirred, becomes all his own. Side One is dynamic, while Side Two takes down the tempo for the most part to feature drinking songs and smoky bar-room ballads, sung in suitably husky tones.

Jon Emery is a singer/guitarist and writer (all the songs are self penned) of considerable stature, even if his talents are not widely known as yet and this album deserves to be brought to the public's attention. Bear Family Records are usually available from any outlet, although it may mean putting an order in, but there should be no real problems in obtaining a copy.



ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL

COMIN' RIGHT AT YA
Edsel ED 187

TAKE ME BACK TO TULSA; DADDY'S ADVICE; BEFORE YOU STOPPED LOVING ME; DRIVIN' NAILS IN MY COFFIN; I'LL NEVER GET OUT OF THIS WORLD ALIVE; SPACE BUGGY; CHEROKEE BOOGIE; HILLBILLY NUT; YOUR DOWN HOME IS UPTOWN; I'M THE FOOL (WHO TOLD YOU TO GO); I'VE BEEN EVERYWHERE; THE SUN SHINES DOWN ON ME.

What a great service Edsel are providing for Asleep At The Wheel nuts like me and many others, with this, their third re-issue from the label, taking us right back to the band's first album release. With guest fiddlers Johnny Gimble, Buddy Spicher and Andy Stein augmenting the regular line-up of Chris O'Connell, Ray Benson, Gene Dobkin, Floyd Domino, Reuben Gosfield and Leroy Preston, the music could hardly avoid being hot 'n' swinging.

Immaculately arranged versions of Bob Wills' 'Take Me Back To Tulsa', Hank Williams' 'Never Get Out Of This World', Moon Mullican's 'Cherokee Boogie' and even the well travelled 'I've Been Everywhere', become re-animated by the individual sound of this inimitable outfit. Catchy originals, (mostly penned by Leroy Preston in this case), mix hillbilly swing with jump boogie and bar-room country to intricate, weaving instrumentation, topped by superb vocals.

As I might have mentioned before (often!), Chris O'Connell's voice is sheer perfection and here she gets chance to show it off on no less than four tracks, plus one duet which, for me, provide the ultimate pleasure. I can't help harping on about the lady, she really gets to me, but the rest of the album is superb too and nothing less than essential.

VARIOUS ARTISTES

SAN ANTONIO SATURDAY NIGHT
Sonet SNTF 933

MI MOVIDITA, TRAIGO UN RECUERDO, EL BARCO LIGERO (FLACO JIMINEZ); 'TIL THE END OF TIME, TU ME PERTENECES, CON QUE DERECHO (LOS PAISANOS); DONA SUSANA, EL BOLSA VACIA, SERA POSSIBLE (LOS HERMANOS BARRON); SOLO TU CARINO, NOMAS POR TI, APAGA LA LUZ (LOS FORMALES).

An album of authentic 'Conjunto' music that highlights the roots of currently popular Tex-Mex music and reflects the changes that have occurred within the style, from traditionalistic Flaco to the more modern aspects of Los Hermanos Barron. The accordion has always been the premier instrument in this rhythmic Border music, but it is interesting to note that the Barron Brothers have almost totally replaced it with electric piano, which to me is a pity.

'Conjunto', which simply means group or bunch, has absorbed many influences, from old polka rhythms, country and blues, to more recent rock directions and there are samples of each here. Only one song, the strongly country flavoured 'Til The End Of Time' by Los Paisanos, is in English, but that in no way detracts from the enjoyment of this informative (by way of content and Samuel Charters' explanatory sleeve notes) album that sums up all the excitement of a 'San Antonio Saturday Night'.



THE DREAM SYNDICATE

OUT OF THE GREY

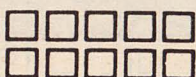
Chrysalis/Bigtime CHR 1539

OUT OF THE GREY; FOREST FOR THE TREES; 50 IN A 25 ZONE; BOSTON; SLIDE AWAY; DYING EMBERS; NOW I RIDE ALONE; DANCING BLIND; YOU CAN'T FORGET.

Having dragged that 'Grand Old Duke Of Talk' Brian Aherm along to see this frantic LA band at Manchester's International, I found they were far more exciting and had greater musical talent than previous albums led me to believe. This album, their first for Chrysalis, arrived the day before the gig and I had no chance to listen beforehand, but when I did, it came as quite a pleasant surprise.

There is much more substance to the music here, which is probably due to the production of Paul B Cutler (the man behind Green On Red's 'Gas, Food, Lodging' and Naked Prey's 'Under The Blue Marlin'), who has also now added his marvellous guitar playing to the band's line-up. Cutler's induction into the already strong combination of lead vocalist/guitarist Steve Wynn, bassist Mark Walton and drummer supreme Dennis Duck, seems to have brought out that extra ingredient that makes a good band great.

Wynn is the band's main writer and, although sometimes a little over-elongated, his songs have purpose and direction, which shows through on the majority of these tracks. This is a pretty good album that, while still not quite capturing the full impact of the Dream Syndicate's compelling live performances, goes a long way towards establishing them as a major act and I look forward to their next offering with anticipation.



Pete Coffey.

The words that go with the music

GERRY FORD

THANK GOD FOR THE RADIO
Trim Top TT 103

THANK GOD FOR THE RADIO: I DON'T CARE: WHAT IS LOVE: ARE YOU TEASING ME: WHO WILL SING FOR ME: LET THE REST OF THE WORLD GO BY: I'LL NEVER NEED ANOTHER YOU: AMAZING LOVE: GOT NO REASON NOW FOR GOING HOME: THIS WORKING MAN'S GOT YOU: HAVE YOU EVER BEEN LONELY: SOMEONE IS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

This is the second Gerry Ford album that I've had the pleasure of reviewing, and like his previous album 'Memory Machine', it too was recorded in Nashville USA, utilising some of that city's finest musicians and background singers. Once again, Gerry has picked up a bunch of songs, both old and new, to suit his easy listening vocal style... Duets between British artists and our American cousins aren't all that common, but on two tracks, the rich voice of Gerry Ford is accentuated by the pure country singing of Jean Shepard. Both artists are in fine form on the sentimental 'Have You Ever Been Lonely', as well as on the Louvin's lively, 'Are You Teasing Me'.

All of Gerry's solo efforts are up to his usual high standard, but two numbers, I think, deserve a special mention: the truly beautiful 'Amazing Love' and the Gail Davies hit song (destined to be a classic) 'Someone Is Looking For Someone Like You', with its great backing vocals.

Love is a very hard emotion to define, but 'What Is Love', written by one F James, goes a long way to explain it, and I feel that this is going to be a very popular number in Gerry's repertoire. 'Thank God For The Radio' is yet another album which Gerry Ford can be proud of, and one which I am very pleased to add to my collection.

MATCHBOX

GOING DOWN TOWN

Magnum

GET UP & GET OUT; GOING DOWN TOWN; STEALING HEARTS; NOTHING TO DO BUT ROCK & ROLL ALL DAY; SHE'S HOT; CAN'T GET OVER YOU; ROLLER SKATING SALLY; FLIP FLOP FLOOSIE; SHOOTING GALLERY; THINK YOU TOOK MY LOVING & RUN; HOT LOVE: THIS IS WHERE I'M GETTING OFF.

Britain's favourite rockabilly rebels, Matchbox, are back with a bang - a brand new album and a revamped line-up. Gone are Steve Bloomfield, Fred Poke and Gordon Scott, to be replaced by bass guitarist Brian Hodgson and that great steelie Gerry Hogan, who also handles acoustic and electric guitars, plus occasional vocals. Just to remind you of the originals, Graham Fenton (lead guitars), Dick Callan (guitars, sax, vocals) and Jimmy Redhead (drums, percussion, vocals). So, the stage is set for us to take a peek at the new Matchbox album 'Going Down Town'.

The first thing that struck me about this album was that it is smoother, more polished than anything they've done before. This could be for any or all of four reasons. Up to this album, the band have relied heavily upon the compositions of Steve Bloomfield and on 'outside writers'. Now the band are using solely the songs of Brian Hodgson (plus co-writers).

Finally, no band worth its salt remains in the business for a dozen years without progressing. No doubt this lack of 'rawness' will be argued by the real fifties purists, but I will firmly defend the new policy.

'Going Down Town' appealed to my nostalgic nature and gives me no end of enjoyment.

Pete Smith.



BILLY WALKER

THE BEST OF THE BEST OF
Gusto GT 0040

CROSS THE BRAZOS AT WACO; SHE GOES WALKING THROUGH MY MIND; I'M GONNA KEEP ON LOVIN' YOU: WHEN A MAN LOVES A WOMAN; ANYTHING YOUR HEART DESIRES; FUNNY HOW TIME SLIPS AWAY; EL PASO; MOTHER QUEEN OF MY HEART; MATAMOROS; SMOKY PLACES; AGE OF WORRY.

The smooth voiced Billy Walker has made many new fans in Britain over the past couple of years, and the timely re-emergence of this Gusto compilation, will go a long way towards appeasing their disappointment at the lack of Billy Walker material available here. Along with Billy's version of the Marty Robbins classic 'El Paso', there are two other great western/Mexican styled ballads, both of which are more associated with Billy himself, 'Matamoras' and Billy's 1964 hit 'Cross the Brazos at Waco', are superb examples of this genre. Because of his vocal resemblance to the late Marty Robbins, Billy has always seemed to take second place. A great pity, as he does have a super voice, which can be heard to great effect on 'Smoky Places', Willie Nelson's 'Funny How Time Slips Away', or on his 1970 hit, 'She Goes Walking Through My Mind'. A very enjoyable album and one that should pick up quite a few sales among lovers of smooth country sounds.



JOHNNY PAYCHECK

GOLDEN CLASSICS

Gusto GT 0098

TAKE THIS JOB AND SHOVE IT; MR LOVEMAKER; DON'T TAKE HER SHE'S ALL I GOT; I'M THE ONLY HELL (MAMA EVER RAISED); SONG AND DANCE MAN; SOMEONE TO GIVE MY LOVE TO; FOR A MINUTE THERE; A-11; HEAVEN'S ALMOST AS BIG AS TEXAS.

Johnny Paycheck is well known for his rough and ready lifestyle and hell-raising ways. This lifestyle is reflected in his gritty, aggressive voice, as well as, by a lot of the songs he's recorded. Most of the titles on this Golden Classics album should be instantly familiar, ranging from his 1965 hit on the Hilltop label 'A-11', through his hits of the early seventies, 'Don't Take Her She's All I Got', and 'Someone To Give My Love To', to what could be his life story, in his 1977 hit, 'I'm The Only Hell (Mama Ever Raised)', and not forgetting the working man or woman's anthem, 'Take This Job And Shove It' - a sentiment that many of us have, no doubt, expressed in the past.

'Something About You I Love', and 'For A Minute There' show a much gentler side to the Paycheck image and voice, while the album's closing track, 'Heaven's Almost As Big As Texas', goes back to the more usual gritty and aggressive style. Golden Classics is definitely another gem from the Gusto vaults... great stuff!

GEORGE STRAIT

NUMBER 7
MCAC 5750

DEEP WATER; NOBODY IN HIS RIGHT MIND WOULD HAVE LEFT HER; RHYTHM OF THE ROAD; I'M NEVER GONNA LET YOU GO; YOU STILL GET TO ME; STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED; IT AIN'T COLL TO BE CRAZY ABOUT YOU; WHY'D YOU GO AND BREAK MY HEART; MY OLD FLAME IS BURNIN' ANOTHER HONKY TONK DOWN; COW TOWN.

The brand new US album release from Texan, George Strait, appropriately titled 'Number 7', carries all the trademarks we have come to expect from an artist who becomes more deeply embedded in his heritage with each new recording.

In 'Number 7', Strait and producer Jimmy Bowen manage to combine, with skilful mastery, the craft of Nashville's finest contemporary honky tonk writers, alongside traditional and modern western tunes, delivering both styles with equal ease and affinity. The mood is firmly set from track one, the Fred Rose classic, 'Deep Water', with Strait sounding incredibly smooth and laid-back, totally at home in this mid-tempo western tune. Dean Dillon, Nashville's supremo of the honky tonk ballad, provides one of the highlights in the movingly poignant 'Nobody In His Right Mind Would Have Left Her', which casts Strait back to the style which launched him to international success, while the fast-paced 'Rhythm Of The Road', written by Dan McCoy, is yet another 'road song' telling of the fascinating addiction of life on the road for the travelling musician.

This theme has become increasingly popular on country albums of late. The tempo slows considerably as Strait falls back into romantic mood for the sentimentally lush 'I'm Never Gonna Let You Go', from the pen of Clay Blacker and side one ends with the least spectacular song on the album, 'You Still Get To Me', which sees Strait showing his versatility in western swing.

Side two opens with 'Stranger Things Have Happened', a jaunty little number from David Chamberlain, featuring some superb steel and fiddle breaks from Paul Franklin and Johnny Gimble respectively, complementing Strait's heavily accented vocal inflections beautifully. A Dean Dillon/Royce Porter composition, 'It Ain't Cool To Be Crazy About You', marks the second focal point of an album which, although musically of the high standard which has become synonymous with Strait's name, lacks any real standout tunes. 'Why'd You Go And Break My Heart', written by David Anthony, again features some sparkling instrumental backing in lively vein, adding enhancement to Strait's engaging vocals. Strait affirms his absolute mastery of the honky tonk style with 'My Old Flame Is Burnin' Another Honky Tonk Down'. A collaboration of writers Mack Vickery, Wayne Kemp & Bobby Borchers, this is a classic tale of a country girl gone bad. For the final offering, Strait reverts to his first love, Texas swing. Treating the Hal Burns/Tex Ritter composition, 'Cow Town', with suitable deference, Strait embodies the very essence of the cowboy singer he, in fact, is.

Not a classic album, but a pleasant and enjoyable effort from an artist who, single-mindedly, has devoted himself to retaining his musical authenticity, despite the lure of commercial success. A definite must for any confirmed George Strait devotee.

Irene Paterson

Billboard Reviews

FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 16, 1986

ALBUMS

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THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WKS. AGO	WKS. ON CHART	ARTIST LABEL & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL (SUG. LIST PRICE)*	TITLE
1	1	2	8	RANDY TRAVIS WARNER BROS. 1-25435 (8.98)	★ ★ No. 1 ★ ★ STORMS OF LIFE
2	2	1	10	GEORGE STRAIT MCA 5750 (8.98)	# 7
3	3	5	39	THE JUDDS RCA/CURB AHL-1-7042/RCA (8.98) (CD)	ROCKIN' WITH THE RHYTHM
4	5	7	4	HANK WILLIAMS, JR. WARNER/CURB 1-25412/WARNER BROS. (8.98)	MONTANA CAFE
5	4	3	18	DWIGHT YOAKAM REPRISE 25372/WARNER BROS. (8.98)	GUIARS, CADILLACS, ETC., ETC.
6	6	4	21	MERLE HAGGARD EPIC 40286	A FRIEND IN CALIFORNIA
7	7	6	24	REBA MCENTIRE MCA 5691 (8.98) (CD)	WHOEVER'S IN NEW ENGLAND
8	8	11	10	THE STATLER BROTHERS MERCURY 422-826 782-1 M/POLYGRAM (8.98)	FOUR FOR THE SHOW
9	9	10	17	WILLIE NELSON COLUMBIA FC-40327	THE PROMISELAND
10	11	8	25	ALABAMA RCA AHL-1-7170 (8.98) (CD)	GREATEST HITS
11	10	9	19	RONNIE MILSAP RCA AHL-1-7194 (8.98) (CD)	LOST IN THE FIFTIES TONIGHT
12	12	13	19	WAYLON JENNINGS MCA 5688 (8.98) (CD)	WILL THE WOLF SURVIVE
13	15	15	28	JOHN SCHNEIDER MCA 5668 (8.98)	A MEMORY LIKE YOU
14	19	20	10	NIITY GRITTY DIRT BAND WARNER BROS. 1-25382 (8.98)	TWENTY YEARS OF DIRT
15	17	19	9	CARL PERKINS, JERRY LEE LEWIS, ROY ORBISON, & JOHNNY CASH AMERICA/SMASH 830 002-1 M/POLYGRAM (8.98)	CLASS OF '55
16	14	16	23	JOHN CONLEE COLUMBIA FC-40257	HARMONY
17	44	63	3	JANIE FRICKE COLUMBIA FC 40383	BLACK & WHITE
18	43	65	3	EXILE EPIC FE 40401	GREATEST HITS
19	18	17	8	T GRAHAM BROWN CAPITOL ST 12487 (8.98)	I TELL IT LIKE IT USED TO BE
20	22	25	91	THE JUDDS RCA/CURB AHL-1-5319/RCA (8.98) (CD)	WHY NOT ME
21	13	14	39	RICKY SKAGGS EPIC FE-40103	LIVE IN LONDON
22	16	12	15	EDDIE RABBITT RCA AHL-1-7041 (8.98)	RABBITT TRAX
23	20	18	9	JOHNNY CASH AND WAYLON JENNINGS COLUMBIA 40347	HEROES
24	24	26	20	JUDY RODMAN MTM 71050 (8.98)	JUDY
25	25	29	42	EARL THOMAS CONLEY RCA AHL-1-7032 (8.98) (CD)	GREATEST HITS
26	26	27	46	GEORGE STRAIT MCA 5605 (8.98) (CD)	SOMETHING SPECIAL
27	28	30	65	THE STATLER BROTHERS MERCURY 824-420-1/POLYGRAM (8.98)	PARDNERS IN RHYME
28	21	21	64	HANK WILLIAMS, JR. WARNER/CURB 25267/WARNER BROS. (8.98)	FIVE-O
29	29	32	39	HANK WILLIAMS, JR. WARNER/CURB 25328/WARNER BROS. (8.98)	GREATEST HITS-VOLUME II
30	27	28	7	THE FORESTER SISTERS WARNER BROS. 1-25411 (8.98)	PERFUME, RIBBONS AND PEARLS

SINGLES

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WKS. AGO	WKS. ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	ARTIST LABEL & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL
1	2	3	15	YOU'RE THE LAST THING I NEEDED TONIGHT J.BOWEN, J.SCHNEIDER (D.WILLS, D.FRIMMER)	★ ★ No. 1 ★ ★ JOHN SCHNEIDER MCA 52827
2	4	5	14	STRONG HEART R.HALL (T.ROCCO, C.BLACK, A.ROBERTS)	T.G. SHEPPARD COLUMBIA 38-05905
3	7	8	12	HEARTBEAT IN THE DARKNESS D.WILLIAMS, G.FUNDIS (D.LOGGINS, R.SMITH)	◆ DON WILLIAMS CAPITOL 5588
4	3	4	15	SAVIN' MY LOVE FOR YOU M.WRIGHT (M.CLARK)	PAKE MCENTIRE RCA 14336
5	6	7	14	COUNT ON ME J.KENNEDY (D.REID)	THE STATLER BROTHERS MERCURY 884 721-7/POLYGRAM
6	9	12	11	DESPERADO LOVE C.TWITTY, D.HENRY, R.TREAT (M.GARVIN, S.JOHNS)	CONWAY TWITTY WARNER BROS. 7-28692
7	5	6	14	WILL THE WOLF SURVIVE J.BOWEN, W.JENNINGS (D.HIDALGO, L.PEREZ)	WAYLON JENNINGS MCA 52830
8	12	14	10	COUNTRY STATE OF MIND H.WILLIAMS, JR., B.BECKETT, J.E.NORMAN (H.WILLIAMS, JR., R.A.WADE)	HANK WILLIAMS, JR. WARNER/CURB 7-28691/WARNER BROS.
9	11	13	12	SOMETIMES A LADY P.WORLEY, E.RAVEN (E.RAVEN, F.MYERS)	◆ EDDY RAVEN RCA 14319
10	1	2	13	ROCKIN' WITH THE RHYTHM OF THE RAIN B.MAHER (D.SCHLITZ, B.MAHER)	THE JUDDS RCA/CURB 14362/RCA
11	13	15	12	A FRIEND IN CALIFORNIA M.HAGGARD, R.REYNOLDS (F.POWERS)	MERLE HAGGARD EPIC 34-06097
12	10	10	13	I'VE GOT A NEW HEARTACHE R.SKAGGS (W.WALKER)	RICKY SKAGGS EPIC 34-05898
13	15	19	10	GOT MY HEART SET ON YOU B.LOGAN (D.GRAY, B.RENEAU)	JOHN CONLEE COLUMBIA 38-06104
14	14	18	9	STAND A LITTLE RAIN M.MORGAN, P.WORLEY (D.SCHLITZ, D.LOWERY)	NIITY GRITTY DIRT BAND WARNER BROS. 7-28690
15	16	22	8	LITTLE ROCK J.BOWEN (P.MCMANUS, B.DIPIERO, G.HOUSE)	REBA MCENTIRE MCA 52848
16	18	23	10	SLOW BOAT TO CHINA T.WEST (M.RAGOGNA)	◆ GIRLS NEXT DOOR MTM 72068/CAPITOL
17	19	24	7	IN LOVE R.MILSAP, T.COLLINS, R.GALBRAITH (M.REID, B.DEES)	RONNIE MILSAP RCA 14365
18	20	25	11	THAT'S HOW YOU KNOW E.GORDY, JR., T.BROWN (W.WALDMAN, C.BICKHARDT)	NICOLETTE LARSON (WITH STEVE WARNER) MCA 52839
19	8	1	14	NOBODY IN HIS RIGHT MIND WOULD'VE LEFT HER J.BOWEN, G.STRAIT (D.DILLON)	GEORGE STRAIT MCA 52817
20	21	26	7	LONELY ALONE J.L.WALLACE, T.SKINNER (J.D.MARTIN, J.JARRARD)	THE FORESTER SISTERS WARNER BROS. 7-28687
21	22	27	6	GUIARS, CADILLACS P.ANDERSON (D.YOAKAM)	DWIGHT YOAKAM REPRISE 28688/WARNER BROS.
22	23	29	8	ALWAYS HAVE ALWAYS WILL N.WILSON (J.MEARS)	◆ JANIE FRICKE COLUMBIA 38-06144
23	24	28	9	TEN FEET AWAY B.MEVIS (T.SEALS, B.SHERILL, M.D.BARNES)	KEITH WHITLEY RCA 14363
24	25	30	10	WORKING CLASS MAN W.ALDRIE (J.CAIN)	LACY J. DALTON COLUMBIA 38-06098
25	28	34	6	JUST ANOTHER LOVE J.CRUTCHFIELD (P.DAVIS)	◆ TANYA TUCKER CAPITOL 5604
26	27	33	6	BOTH TO EACH OTHER (FRIENDS & LOVERS) R.LANDIS (J.GRUSKA, P.GORDON)	EDDIE RABBITT & JUICE NEWTON RCA 14377
27	32	35	9	GUITAR TOWN E.GORDY, JR., T.BROWN (S.EARLE)	◆ STEVE EARLE MCA 52856
28	33	41	4	CRY J.E.NORMAN (C.KOHLMAN)	CRYSTAL GAYLE WARNER BROS. 7-28689
29	37	40	5	SECOND TO NO ONE D.MALLOY (R.CASH)	◆ ROSANNE CASH COLUMBIA 38-06159
30	34	38	6	YOU MADE A ROCK OF A ROLLING STONE R.CHANCEY (C.WATERS, K.BROOKS)	THE OAK RIDGE BOYS MCA 52873



DOTTIE WEST

Gusto GT 0085

I FALL TO PIECES: CRAZY: I'D BE LYING: THE HAND THAT YOU'RE HOLDING: WALKING IN THE DARK: HEARTBREAK USA: SHE'S GOT YOU: ANGEL ON PAPER: I SHOULD START RUNNING: MEN WITH EVIL HEARTS.

Gusto records have really come up with some fine material, and this album of finely honed, smooth, country sounds, is no exception. The lovely Dottie West is in fine fettle, with a collection of great songs ranging from Kitty Wells' 1961 hit, 'Heartbreak USA', to ones which were hits for the late Patsy Cline, 'I Fall To Pieces', 'Crazy', and 'She's Got You', all three are the equal, in their own way, to the Cline versions.

I must admit, that in the past, I haven't paid very much attention to Dottie West, but after listening several times to this album, I shall be listening out for more of her fine singing. Unfortunately, there are no musicians credited, so I shall probably never know who's responsible for the great country sounds of piano, fiddle, steel etc... well worth its place in anyone's collection.

WANDA JACKSON

MY KIND OF GOSPEL

Sundown SLP026

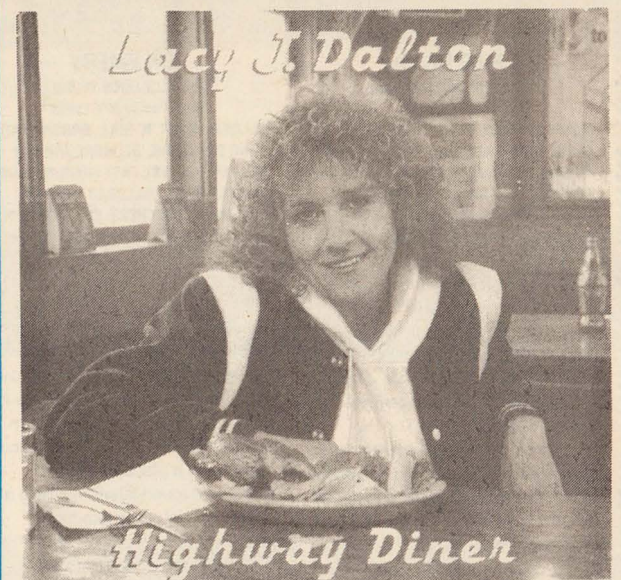
IF JESUS CHANGED YOUR HEART (HE'LL CHANGE YOUR SONG): GLORY TRAIN: JESUS IS THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME: HELP, HELP ME JESUS: LIFE'S JOURNEY: JESUS LOVES COWGIRLS: I'VE NEVER BEEN THIS HOMESICK BEFORE: JESUS GAVE IT TO ME: THANK YOU LORD FOR LOVING ME: IT'S YOUR DECISION.

From rock and roll to country, and now to gospel music - country style. The vivacious Wanda Jackson manages to put across her religious message in an 'easy-on-the-ear' style which makes the message enjoyable to listen to and not at all 'tacky' like some gospel albums. The backing, throughout, is pure country, with Doug Campbell on steel, Bill Hamblin on fiddle, Ray Owens on harmonica, and some standout banjo pickin' from Rocky Gribble. Just listen to his contribution to the bouncy 'Glory Train' and to 'Help, Help Me Jesus', with its old time revivalist feel. Variety is the watchword of this album, as Wanda yodels her way through 'Life's Journey', then sings her heart out in the moving 'Thank You Lord For Loving Me': changes to a more usual gospel style in 'It's Your Decision', then gets as gutsy as Lacy J Dalton on my personal favourite, 'Jesus Loves Cowgirls'. My Kind of Gospel is an album which I heartily recommend to all lovers of good, solid country music... It's great.



Clive Wynes

RECENT U.K. RELEASES



LACY L DALTON — Highway Diner — CBS 57042/40-57042



JANIE FRICKIE — Black And White — CBS 57022/40-57022

WAYLON JENNINGS — At The Country Store — Starblend Country Store Series CST 023/CSTK 023

WILLIE NELSON — At The Country Store — Starblend Country Store Series CST 022/CSTK 022

CHARLEY PRIDE — At The Country Store — Starblend Country Store Series CST 024/CSTK 024

JIM REEVES — At The Country Store — Starblend Country Store Series CST 021/CSTK 021

TOMPALL & THE GLASER BROTHERS — At The Country Store — Starblend Country Store Series CST 027/CSTK 027

LYNN ANDERSON — Her Top Hits — Timeless Treasures 805 (Cassette Only)

LYNN ANDERSON — At The Country Store — Starblend Country Store Series CST 025/CSTK 025

MOE BANDY — At The Country Store — Starblend Country Store Series CST 029/CSTK 029

GEORGE HAMILTON IV — At The Country Store — Starblend Country Store Series CST 030/CSTK 030



WANDA JACKSON — My Kind Of Gospel — Sundown SLP 026/-

HANK WILLIAMS JR.

MONTANA CAFE
Warner Curb 25412-1 (Import)
COUNTRY STATE OF MIND; MONTANA CAFE;
MY GIRL DON'T LIKE MY COWBOY HAT;
WHEN SOMETHING IS GOOD (WHY DOES IT
CHANGE); HARVEST MOON, ST. LOUIS
BLUES; YOU CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK (BY
LOOKING AT THE COVER); MY NAME IS
BOCEPHUS; LOVING INSTRUCTOR; FAT
FRIENDS; MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

Just as Hank Williams Jr's album 'Five-O' finally gets a British release, so does this latest offering get released in the States. Having now heard this album, I'm not surprised that Warner Bros. chose the 'Five-O' release for the UK market. I just cannot see 'Montana Cafe' winning Hank any more fans over here at all. Named after Hank's new diner, the title song is quite good, with Hank telling us not only can he rustle up some steak pie, but also some piece of mind.

'Country State Of Mind' is also good, in fact it's my favourite on the album. The 'Harvest Moon, St. Louis Blues' medley is OK if you like Dixie Land jazz/blues. I find one track per an album like this quite acceptable, we should be used to it by now. After all, Hank has done something similar on the last few albums.

Willie Dixon's 'You Can't Judge A Book' is done in a Bo Diddley come George Thorogood style and works OK, while 'My Name Is Bocephus' is back to straight rhythm and blues. The final cut on the album is Daddy's 'Mind Your Own Business' with Bocephus cranking it up in his very own way.

The tracks that spoil the album for me are 'Fat Friends' and 'My Girl Don't Like My Cowboy Hat'. In fact the former is the first single to be released off the album. To my mind, these are novelty songs that just fill the space and do no more. Knowing what has gone before, this is a poor release from Hank Jr. and is certainly not a country album. Country influences abound of course, but I'm sure many British fans will throw their hands up in horror on hearing some of this. Regretfully disappointing.

Andy Jones.

DENNIS ROBBINS

THE FIRST OF ME
MCA 5720 (Import)
THE FIRST OF ME; HARD LOVIN' MAN;
SETTING ME UP; YOU'RE NOT DRINKING
ENOUGH; ROLLIN' DICE; WATERMELON
TIME IN GEORGIA; THE MOUNTAIN MAN
AND ME; BABY IT'S YOU; SWEET, SWEET
LOVIN'; FULL MOON RISIN'.

Let me say right away that Dennis Robbins is a new name to me and I know nothing about him at all. What did make this album look interesting was the name Warren Haynes on the sleeve. If that name means nothing to you, let me remind you this was the guy who played such impressive lead guitar in David Allan Coe's tour back in 1983. Mr Haynes not only plays guitar on this album, but also had a hand in writing five of the numbers, along with Dennis Robbins.

Very much an up-tempo album, but stone country nonetheless. Robbins hasn't got the greatest voice, in fact he sounds a little strained at times, but the strong songs and excellent backing make this a very enjoyable listen indeed. I particularly like Danny Kortchmar's 'You're Not Drinking Enough', 'Rollin' Dice' and 'The Mountain Man And Me' as stand out tracks.

There's plenty of good guitar work from both Robbins himself on lead and slide and, of course, Warren Haynes. With fiddle, steel and honky tonk piano, this album really moves. Modern, yes, but with more obvious roots than many releases of late.

With the absence of Gary Stewart from the recording scene, this is an album well worth taking a chance on, especially as it will probably sink without trace.

Andy Jones

JOHNNY CASH

WAYLON JENNINGS
HEROES
CBS 26922 (UK release)
FOLKS OUT ON THE ROAD; I'M NEVER
GONNA ROAM AGAIN; AMERICAN BY BIRTH;
FIELDS OF DIAMONDS; HEROES; EVEN
COWGIRLS GET THE BLUES; LOVE IS THE
WAY; THE BALLAD OF FORTY DOLLARS; I'LL
ALWAYS LOVE YOU (IN MY CRAZY WAY);
ONE TOO MANY MORNINGS.

Well, no-one can argue with the pedigree here. Cash and Jennings are certainly heroes of modern country music. Johnny Cash was responsible for my initial interest in country music and Waylon has provided me with countless hours of listening pleasure over the years. OK, so what's wrong here then?

I suspect these tracks were laid down at the same time as 'The Highwayman', (which also featured Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson), production is by Chips Moman, and it follows similar lines to that release. It's Waylon's contribution to the album that disappoints me most here, I think, because, having heard his recent solo offering on MCA with production by Jimmy Bowen, I now know that Waylon can still turn out the real thing and this seems to pale by comparison.

The other disappointment though is the material. We know there are plenty of good new songs around, so why resort to one or two of the items included here? The intrepid duo have done nothing to Tom T Hall's 'Ballad Of Forty Dollars' to make it their own and I'm afraid the same applies to Eddie Raven's 'Folks Out On The Road', another good song, but, having heard Eddie's on his 'I Could Use Another You' album, I much prefer the original. Rodney Crowell's 'Even Cowgirls Get The Blues' is an excellent song, but frankly it has been done to death over the years.

However, I did enjoy the Troy Seals/E Setser/F Miller composition 'I'll Always Love You (In My Own Crazy Way)'. This is the high spot in the album for me. The treatment given to Bob Dylan's 'One Too Many Mornings' I also liked, but again, how many times have we heard the song before? Don't get me wrong, it's not that this is a bad album, but, with a little more thought, it could so easily have been a great album.

Andy Jones.

FORESTER SISTERS

PERFUME, RIBBONS AND PEARLS
Warner Bros. 25411-1 (Import)
100% CHANCE OF BLUE; HEARTACHE
HEADED MY WAY; BACK IN MY ARMS AGAIN;
SOMEBODY'S BREAKIN' A HEART; THAT'S
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY; BLAME IT ON THE
MOON; LONELY ALONE; HEARTLESS NIGHT;
YOU WERE THE ONE; DRAWN TO THE FIRE.

Hot in pursuit of the Judds come the Forester Sisters, Kathy, Kim, June and Christy. This, their second release on Warner Brothers, is a gem. A fine balance of up-tempo numbers and dreamy ballads, the album is a delight from start to finish.

Each of the girls take their turns on lead vocals and come together for some superb harmonies. Production, as on their debut album, is by J L Wallace and Terry Skinner and is faultless.

Kathy Forester takes lead vocals on '100% Chance Of Blue' and 'You Were The One', which has Hoot Hester coming through on fiddle, while June leads on 'Heartless Night' and just listen to the harmonies on this track.

Throughout, the backing is guitar, keyboards and touches of steel from Sonny Garrish. 'Drawn To Fire' and 'Back In My Arms Again' are both fairly up-tempo, with Kim and Christy taking lead vocals respectively.

If you liked the Judds' albums, you will love this. British release? Highly unlikely, but don't be put off. This is well worth the import price, or better still, write to Warner Brothers and pester them to issue it over here.

Andy Jones.

DAVID ALLAN COE

SON OF THE SOUTH
Columbia FC 40346 (Import)
LOVE IS A NEVER ENDING WAR; STORMS
NEVER LAST; GEMINI GIRL; TO HELP YOU
LOVE AGAIN; COLD TURKEY; A COUNTRY
BOY (WHO ROLLED THE ROCK AWAY);
COULDN'T DO NOTHIN' RIGHT; I'VE
ALREADY CHEATED ON YOU; SON OF THE
SOUTH; I HATE LOVE.

There are many people, I know, who wish that David Allan Coe would return to the style he had back in the mid seventies, but those days are gone. Indeed, the 'Mysterious Rhinestone Cowboy' persona died in 1978, along with the 'outlaw' movement. Coe has evolved into a highly professional performer and with albums like this, shows without doubt he is right up there with the big guns in country music.

On this album, Coe has a few friends helping out, in the shape of Willie Nelson, Waylon and his wife Jessi Colter and the lovely Karen Brooks. Coe's songwriting has taken a back seat of late, perhaps because he's been ill recently, as he tells us in the sleeve notes. However, one of Coe's strengths is that he has always been able to appreciate other writers' songs and do them justice himself. This is particularly so on the aforementioned Karen Brooks' 'Couldn't Do Nothing Right' (co-written with one time husband Gary P Nunn), which is sung as a duet. Miss Brooks has appeared on a couple of Coe's previous albums and they really sound good together. Waylon and Jessi add their vocals to Jessi's own 'Storms Never Last', which works well and Willie Nelson helps out on the lovely 'I've Already Cheated On You' and sounds in as good voice as he's been for years.

There are some clever lyrics in 'Love Is A Never Ending War' and one of the three Coe originals 'I Hate Love' is a very catchy number, which I believe is scheduled to be a single in the near future. The current single 'A Country Boy (Who Rolled The Rock Away)', is a tribute to Hank Williams Snr., Buddy Holly and Elvis Presley. Commercial and stone country, Production is as usual by Billy Sherrill and is excellent. Plenty of guitar and harmonica to the fore, laced with steel and complementing Coe's fine vocals. I often wonder just how much say Coe himself has in the production of his albums. After so many albums the two obviously have an excellent working relationship.

Andy Jones

**CHET ATKINS**

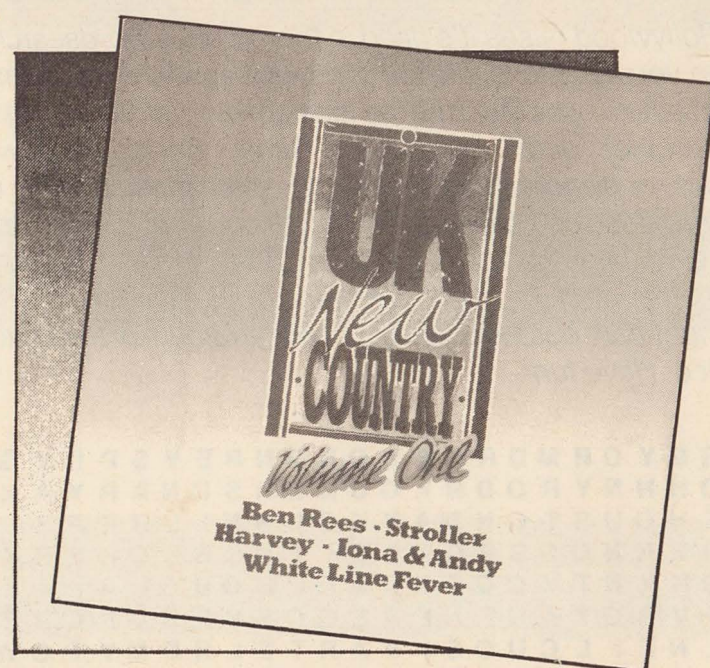
THE BEST OF
Camden CDS 1217
TEENSVILLE; VANESSA; ONE MINT JULEP;
TRAMBONE; PEANUT VENDOR; DJANGO'S
CASTLE; BLUE OCEAN ECHO; YANKEE
DOODLE DIXIE; SWEDISH RHAPSODY; BOO
BOO STICK BEAT; JITTERBUG WALTZ;
MALAGUENA; MEET MR CALLAGHAN; MAIN
STREET BREAKDOWN; COUNTRY
GENTLEMAN; YAKETY AXE.

Although Chet Atkins was responsible for a large part of the Nashville Sound, this budget priced album is down to Chet Atkins the guitar virtuoso and as such, the music ranges from jazz, pop and country to Spanish-style picking. It's great music, but really of little interest to country fans, bar a couple of tracks. Still, if you like guitar music, then this is an album by one of the best in the business. It's lively, catchy, and great mood music.

Clive Wynes

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COUNTRY MUSIC

WORDSEARCH

compiled by Tony Anderson

● Hollywood raises it's head in this month's wordsearch, when you have to locate the stars who appear in the films listed below; whether it be the lone cowboy, slowly riding into the distance, or the saloon belle. Remember it's up, down, across, or diagonally either way, to match these stars to their performance on celluloid. Send your answers to reach this office not later than 30 September 1986, and if your entry is the first correct one to be pulled from our 'Wordsearch Competition' postbox, you could win an album of the Editor's choice. Have fun!

J G G Y O R M D R O F X O N O N R E V S P I V G E
J O H N N Y R O D R I G U E Z H S D N A R Y A N D
C T H O U S T O N M A Y K S U H N I L R E F S I S
O D E N N O S S E R N E S T T U B B L O R E S K I
N O K X N T Y C G F N A M U L B O B O L A L A E V
N L V R O Y A N F N F A E G O S B F H D I C R E A
I L N E I L C U O S I V A R T E L R E M Y T C W D
E Y R K R S C A O R S N Y P V M R U J M R I L E Y
S P E O Y A K W S B A T N E Y A C H E G T X E E M
M A I L Y T A R J H R F K E K J T L P V U F M P M
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H A A R O U V A S K T S E N P R R X R L L O R D W
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A Y E H S L I D C I M L U M I C A O B T Y O D H L
E O T A M M Y W Y N S O G J O R D C N Y R R I A K
I H T W I L L I E O L A H O B C P D N E B V E V E
N O E V E L T O N B R I T T R U L Y R E E B E E R
R O T E X W I L L I A M S T J E R R A B L Y O N D
E R I C N E L S O N C A C X O B I L L R O G E B L

● The films you need the artists for are as follows:-

1. Gator
2. Coal Miner's Daughter
3. Home in San Antonio
4. Guns and Saddles
5. Carson City Kid
6. Gremlins
7. Rhinestone
8. Laramie
9. Norwood
10. Pride Of Jesse Hallam
11. The Last Movie
12. Square Dance Katie
13. Country Music Holiday
14. Nashville Rebel
15. Nevada Smith
16. Outlaw Blues
17. Kimberley Jim
18. Song of the Gringo
19. Buffalo Guns
20. Second Fiddle to a Steel Guitar
21. WW and the Dixie Dance Kings
22. From Here to Eternity
23. Fighting Buckaroos
24. Rollin' Home to Texas
25. The Farmer's Other Daughter
26. A Distant Trumpet
27. Travelling Light
28. Nashville Girl
29. The Golden Guitar
30. Orchestra Wives
31. Hillbilly in a Haunted House
32. Zachariah
33. Goldmine in the Sky
34. Carnival
35. Nashville
36. Sam Whiskey
37. The Gun and the Gavel
38. Sex Kittens go to College
39. Horseman of the Sierras
40. What am I Bid?
41. Red River Round Up
42. Giant
43. Hidden Guns
44. Honkytonk Man
45. Jory

WORDSEARCH WINNER

● The winning entry for our 'July Wordsearch Competition' came from Albert Townsley 8 Glendevon Court Rattray, Blairgowrie Perthshire, Scotland who wins an album of the Editor's choice.

● For those of you who struggled again last month, here are the answers you should have had to the July quiz:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Sonny Throckmorton | 24. Kenny O'Dell |
| 2. Harlan Howard | 25. Joe South |
| 3. Dallas Frazier | 26. Ray Griff |
| 4. John Hartford | 27. Ty Hardin |
| 5. Jimmy Webb | 28. Ben Peters |
| 6. Steve Young | 29. Don Gibson |
| 7. Guy Clark | 30. Don Schlitz |
| 8. Bill Anderson | 31. Roger Cooke |
| 9. Shel Silverstein | 32. Bob McDill |
| 10. Roger Bowling | 33. Bob Nolan |
| 11. Tom T Hall | 34. Jerry Crutchfield |
| 12. Jerry Chestnut | 35. Dennis Linde |
| 13. Tommy Collins | 36. Billy Joe Shaver |
| 14. Dolly Parton | 37. Randy Owen |
| 15. John D Loudermilk | 38. Jack Clement |
| 16. Steve Goodman | 39. Ted Danoff |
| 17. Willie Nelson | 40. Bob Ferguson |
| 18. Hank Cochran | 41. Fred Rose |
| 19. Hank DeVito | 42. Don Wayne |
| 20. Kris Kristofferson | 43. Larry Weiss |
| 21. Tex Owens | 44. Bob Wills |
| 22. Leon Payne | 45. Joe Ahr |
| 23. Jerry Jeff Walker | 46. Mac Davis |
| | 47. Billy Hill |



COFFEY'S ALTERNATIVE COUNTRY NEWS

● THE Byrds, newly re-formed by founder member Gene Clark and bassist John York (with them for about a year at the end of the sixties), commence a British tour at Hatfield Forum (4 October), followed by Dartford Orchard (5), Folkestone (9), Southend (10) and Stockport (11). After some European dates, they return, playing Winchester (3 November), Eastbourne (4), Aldershot (5), Blackburn (14), New Brighton (16) and Halifax (18), with more dates to be added. Only Clark and York had any association with the band. The rest of the line-up is filled by Carlos Burnell (ex-Turtles), British keyboardist Nicky Hopkins, ex-Everly Brothers' guitarist Billy Darnell and one-time Willie Nelson drummer, Greg Thomas.

● Watch out for Manchester based Big Ed & His Rockin' Rattlesnakes, who refer to themselves as 'a post-industrial country and western/rock 'n' roll combo.' Providing they manage to obtain a record deal, this band, comprising Eddie American Sounding (drawled vocals and gold lame suit), Kate Rattlesnake (guitar), Johnny Presley (guitar) and T J (drums), could just make it big.

● Charley Records are to release a 'colossal and magnificent' twelve album boxed set, 'Sun Records-The Rockin' Years', in October. The ambitious project collects many of the legendary label's hottest rockabilly cuts

together and comes complete with informative booklet.

● Adding fuel to my comments about Status Quo's distinct country leaning (July's News File), Making Waves release 'Bob Young In Quo Country'. Young, Quo's tour manager and co-writer of many of their songs, is aided by super-pickers like Albert Lee, Billy Bremner and 'Uncle' Mickey Moody on the album.

● Wes McGhee's Stateside tour with Ponty Bone later in the year coincides with the release of his album there. Ponty infos that he and his band, The Squeezetones, have just completed their first album at Austin's Riverside Studio and that too will be available in time for the tour.

● Elvis Costello & The Attractions' lengthy autumn tour of the United Kingdom, Europe and America will also feature the Confederates (noted LA sessioners like James Burton, Jerry Scheff, Ron Tutt etc.), who contributed to his 'New Wave' country set 'King Of America'. Meanwhile, Costello's new album 'Blood And Chocolate' (released 19 September), reunites him with original producer, Nick Lowe, whose own career has been very country orientated.

● I'm amazed that Island Records never capitalised on the Long Ryders' initial chart success by issuing a follow-up single. I was beginning to feel the deal had merely been a one-off affair. However, a company official assures me that they will be issuing newly recorded material from the band, but couldn't give a definite date.



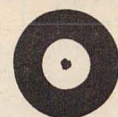
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THE SECOND FIDDLES



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3rd Town Hall, Falkirk
4th Brunton Hall, Musselburgh,
Nr Edinburgh
5th Lerwick, Shetland
6th Capitol Theatre, Aberdeen
7th Eden Court, Inverness
8th TBA
9th TBA
10th Princess Hall, Aldershot
11th TBA
12th Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
13th City Hall, St Albans
14th Theatre Royal, Norwich
15th TBA
16th Winter Gardens, Malvern
17th Corn Exchange, Ipswich
18th Fairfield Halls, Croydon
19th Middlesbrough Town Hall
20th Sands Leisure Centre, Carlisle
21st Butlins, Ayr

● CREATIVE talent can be a heavy burden and a painfully lonely existence is often the high price an artistic nature demands. What seems like a gift to others is the very thing that isolates the artiste from them and makes him feel out of step with the rest of humanity.

● Steve Young's copious vocal, writing and picking talents have tended to make him feel something of an outcast from a society where few comprehend the extent of his intense musical passion and deep personal beliefs. A proud, uncompromising Southerner, he has rebelliously clung to his tenets against overwhelming odds during the search for self-contentment that once erroneously saw drug and alcohol abuse as a solution to torment.

● The Steve Young of today, however, radiates an inner tranquillity that not so long ago would have been totally alien to him, almost as if he had suddenly found all the answers to his quest for peace of mind. While he is entitled to feel satisfied on the strength of artistic merit and musical integrity alone, it obviously stems from something much deeper and I asked him what brought about this new found attitude to life.

● 'Well, you know, I used to be real strung out, loaded and drinkin' and druggin' all the time, but I went through a whole bunch of changes. I've become more honest with myself and what I'm about because of my belief in spiritual stuff and I'm into Zen Buddhism. I don't have any big practice, it just involves meditation and I believe in trying to grow, trying to find out what I can learn.' 'Also, I'm very interested in American Indian spiritual things, the ceremonies and whatever, involving American Indians. I'm interested in just continuing to look in these directions and also finding out how they affect my music.'

● I pointed out to Steve that this could almost be considered as something of a return to roots for him. 'Absolutely,' he replied, 'I'm part Indian. I know my Grandmother and my Grandfather were each part Cherokee. My Brother is six years younger than me and he looks quite Indian. I don't very much, but some of my family do.'

● What of those strong roots, the obvious sense of pride in his Southern heritage evident in classic songs like 'Seven Bridges Road' and others? 'Yeah, well that's sort of changed a little. My interests are more universal now, more cosmic. I mean, I come from the Southern US and my music, even the cosmic stuff, is stamped with that. When I play music, you hear those strains no matter what I do. I'm into Zen or whatever, but I grew up with Southern Baptist roots and that'll always be a part of me in this life.'



● Born in Newnan, Georgia, on 12th July 1942, Steve Young grew up in Gadsden, Alabama, and attended high school in Beaumont, Texas, forming his strong Southern roots and soaking up the rich music traditions indigenous to that large tri-state area. He derived a great deal of influence from a black street musician named C P Austin during

STEVE YOUNG

SOUTHERN ROOTS, COSMIC SHOOTS.



his formative years in Gadsden and, returning to Alabama after graduating, drifted into performing via the folk clubs of Birmingham and Montgomery.

● Alabama was one of the earliest States to secede from the Union and Montgomery had been the first capital of the Confederacy, so Steve's support of the negroes' cause made him rather unpopular in a hotbed of racist rednecks. 'I always had a hard time in Alabama because of my views. I was something of a misfit. I had a folk music following, but I spoke up for the black peoples' rights and a lot of whites didn't like that. Some Ku Klux Klan types threatened me, but I made it clear I'd take some of them with me if they tried anything.'

● Alabama was not the State to be in for someone as principled as Steve Young so, when a local folk band recruited him as a guitarist for a session with Capitol Records in California, he moved to the West Coast. Eventually settling in Los Angeles, he gigged with Van Dyke Parks and Stephen Stills during the

formative days of country rock and recorded three obscure solo albums for small independent labels that disappeared without trace.

● In 1968 Steve appeared on an RCA album with Stone Country, a band that included Don Beck, Dan Barry, Dennis Conway, Doug Brooks and Richard Lockmiller. He only featured on two tracks, but they were enough to attract the attention of Tommy Li Puma, who immediately signed him to A & M Records and set up a session. 'I was in the studio at the end of 1968, early 1969, about the same time the Flying Burrito Brothers were making their first record and Dillard and Clark were together,' recalled Steve. 'I think that's where progressive country music started, at A & M in California. They hadn't started in Austin, Texas then.'

● 'Rock, Salt And Nails' was a fine album, but despite the back-up from friends like James Burton, Gene Clark, Chris Hillman and the late Gram Parsons, sold poorly due to the lack of proper promotion which, considering A & M's large contributions to early country rock, seems rather negligent. It did, however, become a much prized collectors item later and, after lengthy unavailability, will once again be reissued in the UK on Edsel Records late this year.

● In 1981, Young did some recording for the small, well respected New England specialist label Rounder, who (apart from the new version of 'Seven Bridges Road', released on the previously mentioned Reprise album) allowed him studio time to make his first new album in five years. The result, 'To Satisfy You', mostly contained cover versions of songs from such diverse sources as Buddy Holly, The Rolling Stones, Waylon Jennings, Cat Stevens and Jesse Winchester, which many considered too lightweight. It was, in fact, very enjoyable, but disappointed ardent admirers by including only one Young original, 'The River And The Swan' and there is some justification in dismissing it as a minor effort.

● 'I wasn't writing a whole lot then,' Steve remembered, 'I had ideas, but didn't finish many of them. I'm writing again now, it's really coming out and happening for me again. Some of the stuff is very different, what I'd call spiritual, honest music. It's related to things like 'Montgomery In The Rain', but it's almost like experimental music with heavy philosophical lyrics and synthesisers. Not disco synthesisers, more of a heavenly, cosmic sound.'

● Steve has just released a new album 'Look Homeward Angel', which shows off his new cosmic sound to good effect. Prior to its release, he told me, 'This guy in Sweden, Hans Larsen at Mill Records, wanted to do a record and kept calling me up about it. He was very sincere and offered me some freedom, so I finally took him up on it.'

● 'The records got play on FM rock stations, Steve noted. 'But RCA didn't care, they just wanted country hits.' This would have effected a much wider audience, but, seemingly, the company were only interested in what for them was the more predictable middle of the road market as far as country acts were concerned and, despite Waylon Jennings nominating Steve as 'the second greatest country singer to George Jones', the RCA association was terminated.

● In 1979, Steve's debut UK tour met with mixed reactions from country club audiences, many of who, he said at the time, 'only wanted to hear country standards.' He continued, 'About half the audience try to understand what I'm doing, the others get up and leave sometimes calling out that it isn't country music. I respect all tastes, but I need to play to an audience that will accept my roots are in the music of the Southern States'.

● Since that visit, Steve has toured here pretty regularly and, as opposed to the lack of respect he was afforded on that occasion, has built up a strong, dedicated following that not only proves talent will out, but shows how much more receptive our audiences have become. Now he plays to appreciative full houses and fans eagerly look forward to further visits, the next of which Bob Moore informed me, is likely to be in April 1987.

● With no recording again, Steve left the business and settled into running a music shop in Marin County, a district of San Francisco. Wisconsin booking agent Stephen Powers had to literally force him out of retirement to cut an album for his small Mountain Railroad label. Despite strong misgivings, he eventually agreed and 'Honky Tonk Man' was marketed in 1975 (reissued ten years later by Rounder), the title track being a re-work of the old Johnny Horton rockabilly hit, more recently done by Dwight Yoakam.

● RCA Records' Producer Roy Dea had been having some success with Gary Stewart in a progressive vein (which was totally out of keeping with the usual easy-listening pop country approach of the label's Nashville operations) and the company allowed him to contact Young. 'I was told that a producer named Roy Dea would be ideal for me,' he said. 'I was sceptical, but reluctantly went to see him. He liked the demo I made, so we went into the studio and the album came out really well.' That is something of an understatement. The album, 'Renegade Picker', was magnificent and the follow up 'No Place To Fall', although lacking some of the motivation of its predecessor, as equally good in parts. Excellent re-recordings of earlier songs mingled with fine new originals, augmented by material from great writers like Townes Van Zandt, Guy Clark, J J Cale, Bob Dylan, Steve Goodman and Rodney Crowell, making these albums a high point in Steve's career.

● Dropped by A & M, Steve was signed to the Reprise roster by producer Andy Wickham and they cut tracks (at the time unissued) in L.A. with Ry Cooder, prior to going to Nashville where the 'Seven Bridges Road' album was recorded. It contained classic songs like the often covered title track (most successfully 'borrowed' by the Eagles in 1981); the most striking eulogy to Hank Williams ever written, 'Montgomery In The Rain'; 'Lonesome, On'y And Mean', made into a major hit by Waylon Jennings; and a haunting non-Young song, 'My Oklahoma'. Although, again, the album did little saleswise, it established Young as a writer of significance and warranted reissuing a few years later by Blue Canyon (US) and Sonet (UK). Sonet also put out another album of the same title in 1981 (still available) that itself is a collectors piece, because, apart from five tracks from the original set, it features a new recording of 'Seven Bridges Road' and the four previously unissued sides made with Ry Cooder.

● 'I recorded a version of 'Rockin' Chair Money' that I'd done before on an obscure album, but other than that, it's all new material. My son who's just fourteen, wrote a song that I just changed around a little bit and another five or six of them are originals.'

● There have been rumours that Capitol Records in the States are interested in signing Steve, but nothing positive has developed as yet. Whether he ever gets the ideal record company backing that allows him anything like prolific output without restricting his artistic freedom is doubtful. After all, how do you market someone who is always way ahead of the crowd?

● As Steve said, 'I feel good about the direction I'm in right now and feel that the spiritual thing will grow, but I could only do a little of it at a time. The audiences wouldn't be ready for it, they're just now getting ready for my old stuff and I got this new stuff ready to go.'

● 'So,' I asked, 'you always seem to be a couple of jumps in front?' 'Well,' came the reply, 'that's what they say about me. I'm always ahead of my time. I don't know, but I hope that's true.'

● It's true alright and I think Steve Young has enough of the public's confidence these days to be surprised at the favourable response his 'Southern Roots, Cosmic Shoots' music will gain. After all, it's still the same multi-talented 'Renegade Picker', (albeit with a new lease of life), performing. The only real difference is that the music has a more universal language.

**PETE COFFEY'S
ALTERNATIVE COUNTRY
MORE
NEXT MONTH**

TWELVE HOUR COUNTRY MUSIC BONANZA

● THERE'S a unique Country Music Festival this month, on board the British cross channel ferry vessel 'Earl Godwin', sailing from Weymouth to Cherbourg and back (Sunday 28 September 1986).

● Country music fans will find twelve hours of top class entertainment featuring The Hillsiders, George Moody & Country Squires, Al Cody & Clovis, Sarah Jory, Phil Wallace & Empty Pockets, Western Approach, Cotton wood, Bob's Country Disco, Johnny Spencer, Bill Conlon & Emerald.

● Sponsored by waste disposal, aggregate and haulage company Drinkwater Sabey Limited. It's hoped the event will raise at least £5,000 for the Leukaemia Research Fund, whilst providing country music fans with an entertaining and memorable day of country music.

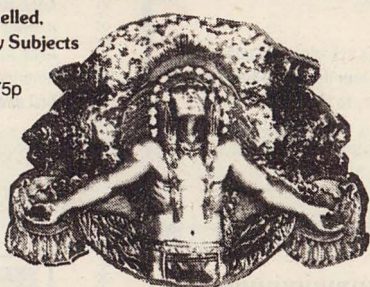
● The event is the brainchild of Don Bush, the company's Regional Manager, assisted by David Street of the very popular Flight Refuelling CMC in Dorset.

● Apparently the main deck of the ferry will be transformed into a concert area with a stage, lighting, tables and seating for seven hundred and fifty people set out in concert style. Visitors will be allowed three hours ashore to peruse the local shops, or go sight seeing. The whole bonanza is available to country music fans at the bargain price of £20, with a party rate discount on over twenty seats.

● More information is available from Christine on (0202) 744333.

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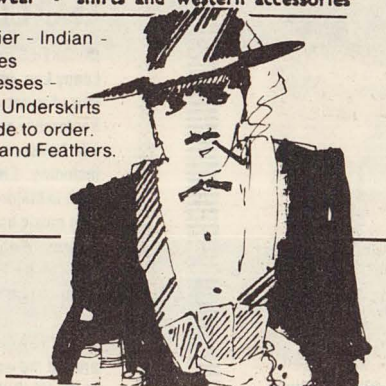


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Q Bob McDowell of Kirkcaldy, Fife, would appreciate the fan club address of the Statler Brothers and information about the group. Bob would also like any details of other American groups?

A The last address I received for the Statler Brothers was Statlers Brothers' Mail Room, Box 2703, Staunton, Virginia 24401, USA. Briefly, the Statlers first came together during the late fifties, when Harold Reid, Phil Balsey and Lew DeWitt began singing together in a Methodist church in Staunton, Virginia. In 1960, Don Reid, Harold's brother, joined the trio and they began calling themselves the Kingsmen. 1963 saw the quartet joining the Johnny Cash Show and changing their name to the Statler Brothers (the name is actually that of a tissue manufacturer). The Brothers' first hit 'Flowers On The Wall' came in 1965 and since then have consistently recorded hit after hit. The Statlers have collected a whole heap of awards, including the CMA's 'Vocal Group Of The Year' for six consecutive years, (1972-1977), then again in 1979 and 1980. A couple of years ago, Lew DeWitt resigned because of ill-health, to be replaced by Jimmy Fortune.

To the second part of your question, details on other American groups is a little too wide. Write to us again, stating particular groups or a specific area of country music and we'll be pleased to look into it.

COUNTRY QUESTIONS

ANSWERED BY PETE SMITH AND FRIENDS

Q Jim Crisp of Ipswich tells me he had a friend who worked in Texas during the early fifties and who became fond of a song he thought to be called 'Bolder Or Older'. Can we help with details?

A You must mean 'Older And Bolder', a hit on the RCA label in 1952 for Eddy Arnold.

John Shumack of Wisbech is a great Wendel Adkins fan and asks if he will be appearing in the Wisbech area during his forthcoming tour?

A Yes he is John. Here's the full schedule as at the time of writing. October 3rd, Peak Freen CMC, Bermondsey; Butlin's, Barry Island (4th); Cleveland (6th);

Tumbling Shack, Doncaster (7th); Cambridge CMC (8th); Andover, Hampshire (9th); Oxford (10th); Elizabethan Rooms, Westward Ho, Devon (11th); Half Moon, Putney (12th); H-Bar-C, Woking (16th); Oxford (17th); Stockport (18th). For further details, please ring Bob Moore on Oxford 52693.

As regards your query about how to stage a show, I'll write to you personally with a little advice. Many thanks for your kind comments about the column.

● Bill Husband of Liverpool, my Albert Lee authority, is still seeking albums featuring and information about his hero. Bill wants the following albums:- Country Fever's 'Mountain Music Jamboree' (Rediffusion) and 'Listen To The Country Fever' (Lucky); Brian Golbey's 'The Old And The New' (Lucky) and Malcolm Anthony's 'Country Jam' (Pye). We would like to contact anyone who knows about Albert's early career, especially the producer Gordon Smith. Can anyone verify the picking of Albert Lee on Ron Ryan's 'My Way Of Life' (Lucky)?

For the John Schneider single, try Record Corner, 27 Bedford Hill, Balham, London SW12.

● And now to those outstanding teasers. We still need details of a song containing the line, 'I'm the Son of a sailor and the sea's in my blood.' This one comes from the late forties, early fifties.

We want the origins of that album 'Waylon & Willie's 18 Golden Hits', current information on Diane Pfeifer, Paula Kelly, Rose Brennan and Sue Terry.

We need to contact a North Eastern performer called Bob Allison.

We want to know about a songwriter called Steve Rhymer and we need three Marty Robbins albums, 'I've Got A Woman's Love', 'Bend In The River' and 'Saddle Tramp'.



US LABEL LOOKS FOR UK TALENT

● IT was back in 1978 that husband and wife singing team Frank Fara and Patty Parker founded Comstock Records in Shawnee, Kansas, but, unlike most US independent record labels, they now concentrate more on promoting their material in Europe and Canada than in their native USA. In fact, such is their input in Canada that in last year's Canadian Country Music Awards, they earned ten nominations, including one for 'Record Company Of The Year', but as Frank says, the fact that they had no Canadian branch office unfortunately eliminated them from the 'Best Label' division.

● I recently heard from Frank, who intimated that he would be pleased to hear from any British acts who would be interested in forwarding him material. He explained that when an act signs to Comstock, it pays the company a fee which covers pressing, promoting and distributing. Virtually all these arrangements are for singles with just one exception.

● This was in respect of Anne Lord who, incidentally accounted for six of those Canadian CMC nominations and was subsequently a Juno nominee with Anne Murray, Carroll Baker, Marie Bottrell and Laura Vinson. Born Anne Attenborough, she is neither American nor Canadian, but in fact first saw the light of day at

Stechford in the Midlands and still has numerous relatives in the Birmingham area. Anne, who now resides in a suburb of Vancouver, will also be headlining a concert in that same city at this year's 'Expo '86'.

● Other Canadian artistes include Peter Chipman (who was another nominee), Robert Bouchard of Nova Scotia, Rick Morgenstern of Alberta and a recent release sees Janet Moore from North Bay, Ontario, offer 'Let's Just Stop And Do Some Livin'.

● It's not only on the North American scene that the label concentrates though, because Stateswide, artistes include the O'Roark Brothers, a duo born and raised in the Mid-West and living in North Kansas City, who have released several Top Ten chart records. Their latest is titled 'Under The Double Nickel' (shades of Billy Boyd), while also from Kansas is another duo Doc & Dusty. European releases have also featured Pegasus, Alla Dee Franklin, Alex Fraser and John Culver, among others.

● In the States, Frank keeps in touch with the stations that play his releases, but admits that sales are small by industry standards, quoting an average of 2,000 singles per release in Canada, but he claims this is counterbalanced by better monitored airplay. Among the Fara operation is also Bell Music (BMI), White Cat Music (ASCAP) and a newer, less active label, Paylode Records. At a time when the independents seem to be tightening their belts, Comstock's empire seems to be expanding from its Shawnee base.

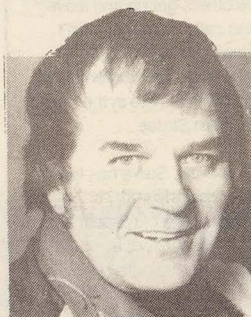
● Frank and Patty will possibly be visiting these shores later this year, leaving the shop I should imagine while they are away to the more than competent Denise Mott. They will be looking for any likely talent from our own shores to promote across the US, Canada and Europe via their by now quite extensive network.

● If any artistes are interested in contacting them, the address is Comstock Records, PO Box 3247, Shawnee, Kansas 66203.

BILLY McFARLAND JOINS HAWK

● FROM Co. Antrim, one of Ireland's leading country music singers Billy McFarland, recently went to Hawk Records, to make a revival of an old song 'A Little Piece At A Time'. But, it was nearly lost to posterity on a rubbish dump.

● An uncle of Billy's had kept the scratched and worn 78 rpm recording of the original in his attic for forty years. He knew one day it could turn out to be the perfect ballad for his favourite Nephew. But the old record was accidentally thrown out with the junk when spring cleaning came around.



● When McFarland, about to celebrate thirty-five years as an entertainer, heard it had gone missing, he dashed to a tip head and retrieved the precious piece of vinyl after a three hour search.

● It was so badly worn that the name of the cowboy singer who first cut 'A Little Piece At A Time' was indistinguishable. But the words and music were clear

enough on the old pressing for McFarland. He took them straight to Hawk to have a brand new arrangement for himself and the strings of the Ulster Orchestra scored.

● 'The finished product is something special, the best I've ever done,' he says. 'What that rubbish dump turned up for me could turn into a gold mine.'

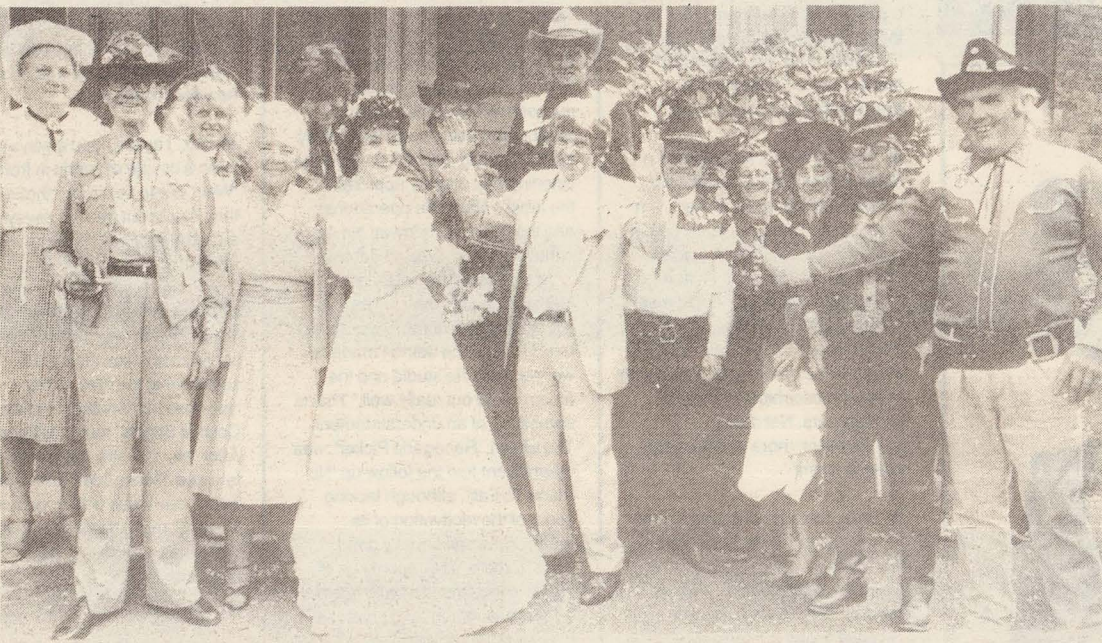
● McFarland, holder of a gold disc, will be singing 'A Little Piece At A Time' in cabaret around the province this summer. On the flip side of his Hawk single, forerunner of an album, is a Jim Reeves' golden oldie, 'Blue Side Of Lonely'. 'Reeves was my hero. I wrote a song about him when he was killed in 1964 and it went straight into the Irish charts,' says McFarland.

NEW ALBUM FOR WENDEL

● WENDEL Adkins is rated by many as one of the most popular of all of the contemporary country artists. This brand new album was recorded in Europe and, according to the record company, 'reflects perfectly his own compositions and style.'

● He is scheduled to undertake a full UK tour during September and October, so the release of this album is well timed to take advantage of any new-found popularity.

JOAN GETS HER MAN TO FORM NEW CLIFFSON 'DUO'.



A shower of bullets greeted these newly-weds as they celebrated their marriage in true country style. Joan Brown roped her stallion Jeff Cliffson at Wrexham Register Office. Over 100 fans, many in cowboy gear, turned out to wish them well, including ol' timer, 'Sheriff' Frank Parry, 69, of Acton. Fan club members follow Jeff, who lives in Chirk, everywhere to hear him sing, and they decided to give him a real good send off when he and Joan got hitched in July.



LEAPY LEE

● SIXTIES hit recording artist, Leapy Lee, returns to the UK for a tour of country music clubs in September and October. Leapy, who had several hits in the sixties, including, 'Little Arrows', now lives in Majorca, where he runs his own music bar 'Curtains', as well as presenting several shows each week on the English language radio station in Palma.

● 'Little Arrows' was a hit record around the world and figured high in the US 'Billboard' country chart. It is presently re-released in Britain on Old Gold Records. Leapy has always been a strong fan of

country music and his act is now entirely country. Backing duties on his tour are shared by the Rogue Band and Armadillo.

September
25 Sand Castle, Blackpool
26 Bethesda CMC, North Wales
27 Immingham CMC
29 Butlin's, Barry Island

October
2 Pontin's, Hemsby
4 BRSA Club, Goole
8 Pontin's, Brean Sands
9 Sand Castle, Blackpool
10 New Hall, Tiverton, Devon
11 Stables Theatre, Wavendon.
17 Townsend Social Club,
18 Frys Social Club, Keynsham.

● WHEN the 'big man' of British country music first set up Tony Best Leisure, he made a promise that his leisure holidays would place the emphasis on country music and his marketing would be aimed at the country music club goers, who attend the clubs just to listen to the music for their enjoyment. Tony was convinced that there was a big listening market who preferred their main stage music to be in concert in a night club styled environment and, because of Britain's drink drive laws, a festival stop-over situation has become a desirable idea for many of the fans. Tony had previously performed at and compered fifteen week-long country-style festivals for the Pontin's group, during which time he reckoned he learned what the music fans wanted.

● So, when Pontin's 'rested' him from duties, Ladbroke's invited him to consider organising a festival at their Wallis's Centre in Scarborough. After lengthy discussions, it was agreed that he should promote a trial event, which was a huge success. That success prompted Tony Best Leisure, which is basically a country music holiday chain reaction, stimulated by Tony and his family, rapidly spreading throughout the country.

● The hallmark of Tony Best Leisure Promotions is that they are fan orientated. Everyone is involved from the word go and each and every one is of the same status, the big man makes sure of that! It can be honestly said that everyone who attended the 6th-8th July 1986 Norbreck Castle Hotel weekend had a ball when Tony came to the boil.

● The Norbreck Castle Hotel, Bispham on Blackpool's North Shore, is a high quality hotel with a first class reputation for luxury and fine cuisine. Each bedroom had colour TV, telephone, teasmade, toilet and bath en suite and very comfortable beds.

★★★★★★

BLACKPOOL LEISURE WEEKEND

NORBRECK
CASTLE HOTEL,

Brian Ahern

★★★★★★

The hotel had a coffee shop, bars, games room and a heated swimming pool. The large restaurant served breakfast, lunch and dinner and the food is very good. All the musical offerings for the weekend were centred in a large conference hall, with the glam/gliit man Ian Ashcroft providing the country disco (he is now seemingly at all of Tony Best's promotions).

● The resident performers were the Lazyacre Roadshow, which featured Tony Best himself, George Foster, Bob Newman & Carole Gordon. Carole Gordon helped Tony to comper the shows because the big man was slightly indisposed with a boil in the cruet set region. He still managed to play ball with his audience all weekend though and Carole did a smashing job!

Her stage partner, Bob Newman had his foot in bandages after a nasty accident with an electric lawnmower. There's a gag in there about The Lazyacre Roadshow and Football Fever, but it's Best left out.

● Manson Grant & The Dynamos provided an exciting guest spot. This trio, with an 'eight piece sound' are a pure delight to listen to and watch, smart in every sense of the word. The Raymond Froggatt Band topped the bill. Both Froggie and the band were bang on top form.

● Saturday lunchtime saw the Fun Talent Contest, the Country Music Fun Quiz, (Graham and Nancy Else from Mansfield got themselves disqualified for being too clued up), the Darts and Snooker Competitions (I believe Tony gave everybody a two red start). The evening's star guests were Bob McKinlay & Dixie Fried.

● Sunday morning was the prize giving and charity raffle draw show, featuring all the resident performers, plus Johnny Marks.

● The weekend festival even ended on a fun note, with a challenge can-can between Ann from Accrington (the winner of Ian Ashcroft's can-can competition) and one of Tony's regulars. Can I say that it raised, or dropped, a couple of titters! After lunch Tony was on hand in the hotel foyer to thank everybody and wish them a safe journey home. Some of the people I spoke with included Ken and Hazel Jackson from Timperley, Brian and Jackie Speakman from Huddersfield, Derek and Linda Newby from Cumbria and Eunice from Yorkshire, who all said what a wonderful weekend it had been. So, Tony Best and all his helpers and entertainers can be proud of their Leisure Holidays, they certainly are!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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1986

27 Sep to 4 Oct All-Star Country Music Gala Week at Wallis's Holiday Supercentre, Cayton Bay, SCARBOROUGH
21 to 23 November Lazyacre Country Music Weekend at Pontin's Holiday Centre, Sand Bay, WESTON-SUPER-MARE
28 to 30 November Lazyacre Country Music Weekend at Pontin's Holiday Centre, Sand Bay, WESTON-SUPER-MARE

1987

13 to 15 February All-Star Country Music VALENTINES weekend at the Savoy Holiday Hotel, BOURNEMOUTH
20 to 22 March All-Star Country Music Weekend at Ladbroke's, Sussex Coast Holiday Centre, MIDDLETON-ON-SEA, Sussex
3 to 5 April All-Star Country Music Weekend at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, BLACKPOOL
16 to 23 May All-Star Country Music Gala Week at Wallis's Holiday Supercentre, Cayton Bay, SCARBOROUGH
3 to 5 July All-Star Country Music Weekend at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, BLACKPOOL
10 to 12 July All-Star Country Music Weekend at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, BLACKPOOL

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THE HANK WEST BAND

THE BAND Factsheet

● Formed originally in March 1985, the band folded in August of that year. After a brief break, the band was reformed in October, thanks to a local club being stuck for a band to play at a charity night. The band has been working odd jobs since then, the general lack of work being due mainly to Hank's college commitments restricting his available evenings, a problem which has since been resolved.

● The band play a wide variety of country music, from Hank Williams to Hank West and have about enough original material to fill an album (if only they could afford it), but find most of the Scottish clubs they play in like the old standards best. They are now looking to get going full-time, planning to do so over the next twelve to eighteen months and are presently looking at the possibility of setting up the band as a workers' co-operative, under the guidance of the Scottish Co-operative Development Committee.

HANK WEST

● (Frank Culross). Lead vocalist, lead guitar, banjo, keyboards, songwriter. Aged thirty-three, he's married with three children. He has a Diploma in Music from Cambridgeshire Tech., a B.Sc. from Dundee University and a Cert. Ed. in Community Education. He writes British country songs because he feels that British country music should stand on its own two (or more) feet! Hank is a member of the Tayside Musicians' Union Executive Committee. He played with Appaloosa at Peterborough last year and, as a result of this, went on to play with The Duke Boys for some five weeks before returning to doing his own thing with the re-formed Hank West Band.

RON DAVIE

● Drums and vocals. Aged forty-three, he's married with four children and is by profession, a piano tuner. (His 'real' job!) He has played with various bands in the past, both here and abroad and played briefly with Appaloosa last year. Ron is a great fan of both George Jones and Gene Watson and, perhaps not surprisingly, the band's set includes its fair share of their songs.

ANDY PETRIE

● ('Southfork Andy'). Bass and vocals. Aged thirty-seven, Andy is married with two children. He has been playing guitars for years, but mainly in the house! He was the band's roadie until a need for a new bass player arose, when he decided to try his hand and has succeeded admirably. Andy is an active songwriter, presently trying to develop a country style. His favourite country music band of the moment is Alabama.

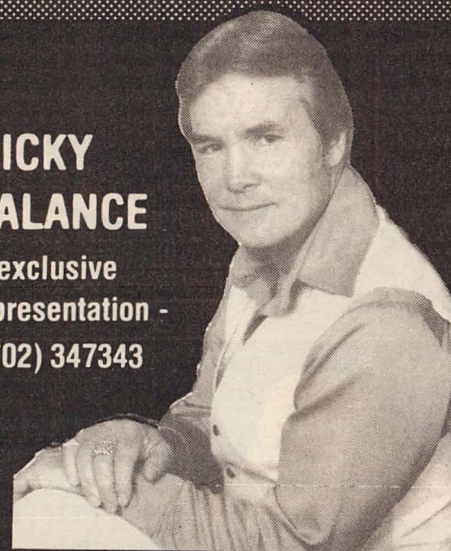
ROCKY (GORDON) REID

● Rhythm, lead guitar and vocals. Aged forty-seven and divorced with one daughter, Gordon is the cook of the band, being a chef by trade. He has gained most of his playing experience in clubs and pubs etc., and playing with Hank has been his first venture into 100% pure country music, which he has always enjoyed. Gordon lends his own style of playing (Chet-like) to the band's music. He got the name 'Rocky' from his success as a boxer during his service with the Royal Air Force. Rocky is proof that a liking of country music can be genetically transmitted, since his brother is a steelie, a member of a rare species! His musical tastes are so diverse, it's hard to pinpoint a favourite country artiste of the moment.



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RECORD DISTRIBUTION FOR SONGWRITERS AND MUSIC PUBLISHERS

● MCPS, the music industry organisation representing music copyright interests of over 10,000 songwriter and music publisher members, has recorded its highest ever annual distribution figure, outstripping its previous best of £14 million last year. MCPS, acting on behalf of its members, licensees the recording of their copyright music (popular, classical, jazz, country, folk, rhythm and blues, soul) and collects and distributes the resulting royalties.

● This year, MCPS has collected some £16.3 million in mechanical royalties, out of which over £15.3 million will have been distributed to its songwriter and music publisher members. The remainder will be available for distribution in the current financial year, which started on 1 July 1986.

● Contributors to this £16.3 million sum include the record industry (£6.5 million), the broadcasting industry (£3.5 million), the audio-visual industry (£2.2 million), the video industry (£1.2 million) and overseas copyright societies (£2 million).

● The record industry royalty sum is largely attributable to the manufacture of records and tapes for retail sale. The broadcasting royalties have resulted from

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Yvonne Wyncoll, 62 Bankside, Banbury, Oxon.

blanket agreements (in particular those with the BBC, ITCA satellite television companies such as Music Box and Sky Channel, British Telecom-Dial A Disc etc. and minor broadcasters. The audio-visual contribution covers film and slide productions, while the video input includes 'promos', long form music videos, dramatico musical works, concerts, feature films, independent productions for television and video jukeboxes.

● Commenting on yet another year of achievement above budgeted targets, Company Secretary Keith Lowde said,

'Significant growth in distributions have been achieved without a commensurate increase in head-count. The productivity per employee has improved dramatically as a result of the implementation of advanced computer systems and the dedication of management and staff. MCPS members seek value for money and our corporate objective is to continue to improve our effectiveness and efficiency, in order that they are increasingly satisfied.'



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DICK EDWARDS DUO

FULL BOARD £25

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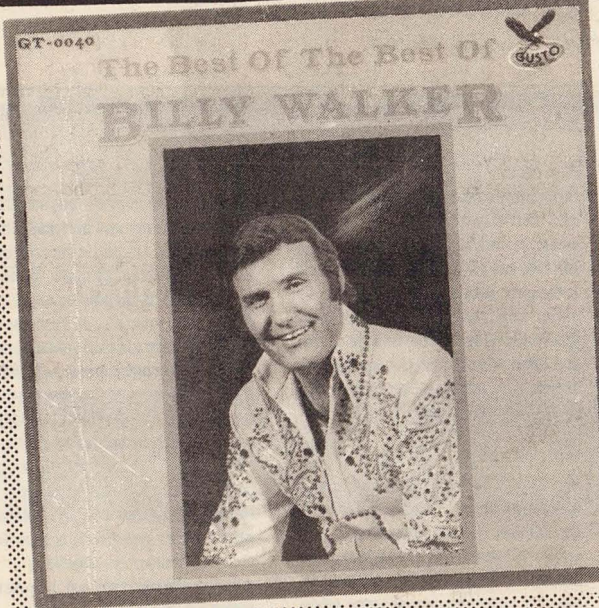
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Mr Crowley wins
'Mona Lisa' by Ray Lynam.

COUNTRY MUSIC ROUND UP

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QUESTION:

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ANSWER: They do it Best

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as each resort now will host at least one of Tony Best Leisure's, Country Music Holiday Breaks in 1987.

As next year 'Big Tony' further expands his successful week-long and week-end promotions to take in new areas, thereby offering more alternative venues for his wide-ranging specialist music followers.

Next year, the 'Best Holidays' prices vary according to the facilities provided, be it full-board in an Hotel, or a self-catering chalet/caravan, such is the fare offered within his latest published programme of events.

One thing, it seems, that does not vary is the general quality of the music provided, or the acts. Keeping faith very much with the tried, trusted, albeit many of Britain's Best.

For further details of 'Best Leisure' Promotions, tel: 0743 58156, and tell 'em where you read it.

STOP PRESS

STU PAGE & REMUDA MOVE ON

● A recent communique from an associate of Stu Page & Remuda, informed 'CMRU' that the lads are no longer under the sole management of Silvanone Promotions. However, we were further told that all existing contracts will be honoured.

● For booking enquiries, contact the numbers given in the Stu Page & Remuda advertisement elsewhere in this publication.

LET'S SAIL AWAY

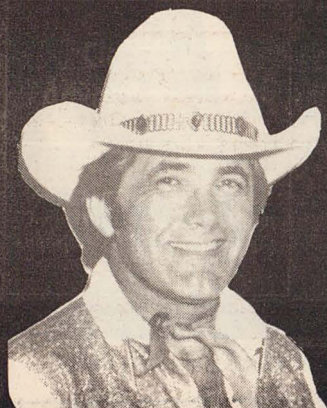
● COUNTRY Music afloat is fast becoming the 'in-thing'. However, extra 'treats' such as an overnight stay at a '5-Star' hotel, together with a brief sight-seeing tour of a foreign capital are certain to attract interest among discerning country fans seeking an alternative.

● One such trip, currently being organised via Jacksons Club of Hull, sails from their home port to Rotterdam in November.

● The two-tier outing means fans have a choice of a 'North Sea Dash' on the excellent modern day North Sea Ferries, featuring country music all the way (there and back), or taking advantage of the overnight facilities offered by the prestigious Hilton Hotel.

● The chosen artists for the trip include one of Ireland's favourite country ladies, Ann Breen and one of North Yorkshire's finest country music exponents, Collier Dixon Line.

● For further details, telephone Hull (0482) 446101.



GORDIE WEST
from
Canada

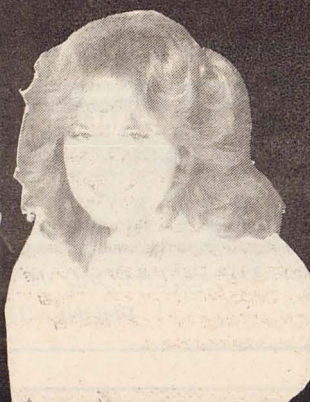
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August

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Sat 23	Big M CMC, Meadow Club, Andover
Sun 24	The Glen, Roborough, Plymouth
Mon 25	Nashville CMC, St. Albans, Herts.
Wed 27	Chequers Inn, Nr. Harrogate
Fri 29	Trinity Centre, Gainsborough,

For further details, ring (0636) 707574

MARIKE JOHNSON
from Sweden
and her
band



NORTH EAST EVE MORRIS

● THE Jeannie Dee final Farewell concert, staged by Collier-Dixon at the Castleford Liberal Club was probably the most over-subscribed event of the year. Friends and fans gathering from such diverse places as Letchworth, Stevenage, Poole, Wrangle, and of course Yorkshire's cast of hundreds, to wish Jean and Duncan good fortune upon their imminent settlement in Pennsylvania. The show was opened by the very smartly attired Collier-Dixon, who gave a faultless performance. The Jeannie Dee Trio, with Tony Kampf on bass, were joined for this final performance by Johnny Young on drums, and roadie to the famous, Bill Clarke. Not sure if it was the effect of being a Pennine Radio competition winner or what, but when offered a drink, Bill distinctly replied 'pink gin'. George Hamilton IV has a lot to answer for! The emotionally charged evening, where every song was a winner, was brought to a close by looking to the future, with Jean's final UK number, 'Please Don't Let Me Know (How The Story Ends)'. Country music and Yorkshire will miss Jean, not only for her talent, but also for her kindness, friendship, and the warmth of her bright personality.

● Lack of bush telegraph meant missing one of my favourite out-of-town bands, namely Hank Wangford. However, the bush telegraph did provide details of the delectable Irma Seetas who, with B J Cole and other former Wangford renegades, under the guise of Irma's Squirrels, are currently breezing up a storm: Irma's version of 'Hernando's Hideaway', leaving my informant quite speechless.

● Eventually found my way to Ossett Central WMC, doing slightly better than Rugby-based Acme Bluegrass Band, who came off the flight path to go via Barnsley. With front vocals from Brian Curtis (he of the Dog House Studio and garden cloddy fame), rocking Bill Forster on banjo, Bob Armstrong on dobro and John on double bass: they presented a musically tight and entertaining show. The precise, unaccompanied vocals on the more reverent numbers had the audience enthralled and not too prepared for a storming version of 'Blue Suede Shoes' which even Carl Perkins would have been proud

● News of a banjo club in Wakefield sent an acquaintance, hot foot, to discover like-minded pickers. Upon crossing the portals of the Waterloo, he discovered the massed might of a Yorkshire ukelele club. Not quite the Scruggs' style! Understand the bluegrass festival at Bewbush, nr Crawley went well. The newly formed East Coast Bluegrass Band, from East Anglia, noted as having potential.

● This month's final guest at the Harrogate Football Club was the ever popular Mel Hague. Mel's laid back style, dry humour and professional ability certainly take some beating. Even with a tickly cough, he managed to cough only in the correct pauses and I suspect they were even in key! Mel's new single is receiving good air-play on the local stations, but surprisingly not a glimmer on Radio 2. Suspect pressure from his fans will soon correct this oversight for an artiste who has done much for the furtherance of country music.

● Another highly acclaimed Yorkshire act, which appears too infrequently in my area is Stu Page and Remuda. Always hearing such good reports of their shows, so miss them at your peril, at Buttershaw Lane, Bradford, early September. Wonder if the influence of buying animals at auction on a recent edition of YTV's 'Emmerdale Farm', has any connection with Peter Kane's recent purchase of a caravan. On the road Irish-style?

● A chance meeting with one Dave Parker, informed me that he is running a regular Tuesday country night, at the Railway Hotel in Featherston, and Chris Gill - late of Wakefield's Poste Haste - is now presenting fine acts at the Chequerfield Hotel in Pontefract. The two confirmed Peter Rowan gigs will not be in this area, now awaiting details of the unconfirmed one. Meanwhile, the Evermobile has yet again confounded all and passed its MOT, so it's heading for this month's Slapton Festival in Devon.

● Any local news or exciting happenings to: Eve Morris, 18 Powell St Harrogate, HG1 4BY Telephone: (0423) 508081.

HIGHLAND COUNTRY ANN CARMODY

● THE Keith CMC Festival was blessed with fine weather and a large audience, who enjoyed the variety of acts. Highlights for me were Hickory Wind, Kid Wayne and Colorado. Although the day-time audience at the Festival, held at Blair Atholl, was slightly down on last year's, the evening more than made up for this with wall to wall people enjoying music provided by Hickory Wind, plus the Cotton Mill Boys. (Dingwall Fire Brigade's annual Charity Concert and Dance was also a well attended night for the Cotton Mill Boys).

● Inverness CWC's first festival was also a resounding success, people having travelled from all over Britain to attend. At this point I must apologise to those people I could not talk to, having completely lost my voice. Nevertheless, we really did appreciate the fact that you were all there. A really spectacular ending, with more musicians on stage than I could count had me agreeing to organise another next year, so see you there!

● Ireland's Kid Wayne Band had a successful tour. This tight, pure country band were much enjoyed by their audiences. Kid heads off to Nashville very soon to record his next album in Hilltop Studios.

● From South of the Irish Border, the Cotton Mill Boys seem to be getting better every time I hear them. I much enjoyed (as did the punters) their versions of 'Sweet Country Music', 'Down A Dusty Dixie Road' and 'Carmen'. These boys had certainly done their homework and now promise more new material when they return this month for a short tour which takes in the Elgin CWC's tenth birthday celebrations, as well as the Nairn CWC's first birthday party. Meanwhile, yet another hiccup has delayed the release of the Cottons' long awaited single, but it is looking promising now. Steel guitar player Allan Thomson, who sat in for the recent tour, filled the breach excellently and maybe we shall see him back on future tours.

● Dave Sheriff & Nicki Clarke spent the month of July in the Highlands and were well received everywhere they appeared. They have put in a lot of work and now have a much more varied and tighter sound. A marvellous gesture by them was that they did three nine-hour marathons in the shopping centre, Inverness, raising £2,000 for the Highland Hospice Appeal, so they deserve a big pat on the back.

● Whilst on the subject of charity, did you know that John Quinn did a sponsored ten mile walk from Glasgow to Stewarton in aid of the Ayrshire Hospice Appeal? John was joined on part of the walk by Charlie and Harry of the Cotton Mill Boys, who were providing the music at a fund raising dance afterwards.

● The McEwan's Lager Country Festival in the Magnum Centre, Irvine, was very well attended and organised. Unfortunately, I was unable to stay for the whole show, but hopefully next year?

● Well, folks, this brief contribution is due to the fact that I am, at the time of writing, holidaying in the Isle of Man, so must head on out again in search of country music, which seems to be hard to find here. I enjoyed David Callister's 'Country Time' on Manx Radio this afternoon. I'll be home at 56 Kilmuir Road, Inverness (telephone (0463) 221268) for news, views and comments by the time this goes to press, so keep them coming in. Ann Carmody.

LOCAL SCENE

COUNTRY
MUSIC
ROUND UP

TYNE & WEAR GEORGE MILLS

● RUBY Rendall & Cimarron at the Country Jamboree CMC, Carlton Restaurant, Consett, didn't have the sound problems they experienced at Gypsies Green, just interference from the taxi rank next door. Unfortunately, at this club, this always happens to a band using good equipment. Worth a mention is the Country Jamboree CMC's recently held barbeque at Allensford near Consett. Enjoyable music from Clint's Collection, and the event was so successful that another one is scheduled for 5 September.

● Some of the most popular country bands in Britain visited the region this month. Vegas at the True Grit CMC, Whitley Bay, and the North & South CMC, Gateshead, and Hickory Lake as always superbly entertained their audiences at all the venues they played, including the Gunfighters CMC, Hebburn. West Virginia appeared at the Iona Club, Hebburn. Their tenth year in country music seems to see them going from strength to strength. Al Cody & Clovis from Wales played well at a new venue, the White Hart CMC, Chopwell RAOB Club. Sweetwater Creek were also well received at the Gunfighters.

● A band I had the good fortune to see at the Wembley Conference Centre at Easter, Gypsy, were the guests of Margaret Trotter and her members at the Border CMC, Berwick, this month. Margaret informs me that her audience really enjoyed their style of music and presentation.

● The Blackfriars Arts And Conference Centre in Newcastle was the venue for a late July free open-air country music concert promoted by Newcastle City Council. The artists taking part were top local bands Deuce, Key West and Dealer's Wheel, plus highly acclaimed songstress Sandi Hart, backed by the Louisiana Hellraisers, who also did a fine set on their own. The whole afternoon's show was compered by Metro Radio's 'Country Jamboree' presenter Brian Clough. Although a lot of country music supporters were in attendance, it was nice to see country music being brought out to the man/woman in the street. (I'd like to hope this will be the first of many such shows).

● A change of name seems to be the order of the day for certain bands in the region and not always a change for the better. Rodeo have suddenly reappeared on the circuit as Dealer's Wheel, but have a long way to go to achieve the close harmonies of say the Louisiana Hellraisers or West Virginia. Nightline from Yorkshire are now the Ryedale Country Band. However, a band that impressed me this month on their first visit to the

North East were Cheyenne, a four-piece group from Gloucestershire. They're a young band who have only been formed seven months, but who have a lot of enthusiasm for country music and a wish to please the audience. The line-up comprises Steve Thomsom (rhythm guitar/vocals), David Griffin (lead guitar/vocals), Chris Pretty (bass guitar/vocals) and Gavin Young (drums). Their material includes some standards, but much up to date material from such as George Strait and Gary Morris. I particularly enjoyed their version of Strait's 'Honky Tonk Crazy'.

● Congratulations are the order of the day this month to Ken and Wendy of the True Grit CMC, Whitley Bay on their recent marriage and to Derek and Gaynor of the North And South CMC on their recent engagement. It proves country music helps to bring people together.

● After receiving numerous enquiries on the location of country music venues in the region, here is a run-down on the ones known to me. Please let me know if I have missed any:-
Sunday - Iona Club, Hebburn; Stella Maris SC, Washington. . . . Monday - Washington Liberal Club. . . . Tuesday - Horsley Hill Hotel, South Shields; Lazy C CMC, Crowtree SC, Bowburn, Co. Durham; Border CMC, Berwick (monthly 2nd Tues)
Wednesday - Chuck Wagon CMC, Fleece Inn, Alnwick (monthly last Wed) . . . Thursday - True Grit CMC, Royal Banqueting Suite, Whitley Bay; Delta CMC, Marsden Inn, South Shields; North & South, United Services Club, Gateshead (fortnightly) . . . Friday - Brigham & Cowan's SC, South Shields; Country Jamboree CMC, Carlton Restaurant, Consett (fortnightly); Northern SC, Ashington; Colliery SC, Hebburn. . . . Saturday - Gunfighters CMC, Hebburn Progressive Club; St Bede's SC, Jarrow; White Hart CMC, Chopwell RAOB Club; The Outlaw CMC, Lanchester SC; Boots & Saddles CMC, Daisy Hill SC, Sacriston, Co. Durham.
For other venues and artists appearing in the region, tune in to Metro Radio, Friday nights and Radio Cleveland on Sunday afternoons.

● Finally, here are some dates for your diary:-
Monday 8 September - The British Legion Club, Coatsworth Road, Gateshead, hold a Charity Show in aid of Alzheimer's Disease featuring Rainbow County. On Wednesday 8 October - Stella Maris SC, Washington, hold a similar show in aid of Operation Heartbeat with Gordie West, the Moat Brothers and Bourbon.

● Don't forget, any news, views, comments etc., to George Mills, 15 Coatsworth Court, Bensham, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE8 1QR. Telephone: (091) 4781885.

ANGLIA REPORT JOE ALLEN

● POPULAR demand has meant Smith and Wesson's current cassette 'Messrs Country Hobo' recently sold out, leaving many of their fans disappointed. However, I'm told the new batch has arrived and can now be purchased at any of the band's engagements. This sixteen-track cassette contains four original numbers written by band singer, Tony Trent, who informs us he has a pile of brand new songs waiting to be recorded by British bands. If you are contemplating a new album, you might do worse than call Northampton 494964. In fact, it could be very beneficial to you. Already Nashville is taking notice. Apparently the Lee Greenwood management have been in contact with Tony, and are showing interest in his work, particularly a track called 'You're the Reason'. We wait in hope.

● The Hillsiders played in the Abingdon Park Bandstand, Northampton, the night prior to the town show. Consequently, there were no seats available for fans, and the few that stayed had to sit on the grass for the evening. However, two full sets were performed by the Hillsiders in the fine tradition we have become used to, with added support from the Ann and Ray Brett Trio.

● With reference to some recently published articles about Cambridgeshire's Helen West Sound band breaking up, I can assure you that Helen sends her best to you all, is well, and can still be seen locally working on every occasion possible. She has also recently recorded material for an American radio show, and has a brand new cassette out containing ten tracks, three of which are originals - more details on this next month.



Smith and Wesson

● Local artist, Dave Sherriff, has enjoyed an excellent two-month tour in Scotland and North East England. He recently played a fortnight in Singapore, and he has been asked back for a five-month stay next year.

● Finally this month, I thank you for all your letters, but please note: you must send any info by the 1st of the month preceding issue. Currently much of your correspondence arrives too late to be published. As usual, the address: Joe Allen, 385 Shelley Road, Wellingborough Northants, NN8 3EW Telephone: (0933) 677352

LOTHIANS BORDERS

JACKIE BLAIR

● Well, here I am back after two weeks holiday on the Continent, where the nearest I got to country music was a disco version of the 'Indian Love Call' and an Italian barman wearing an Alabama hat!

● I had the pleasure of attending a concert organised by the small Border town of Earlstoun to open their annual civic week. The show was opened by Jolene & Barry's excellent forty-five minute non-stop set. (Barry infers they are looking forward to their forthcoming gigs in the Algarve). After the break, that country gentleman from Ayrshire, P T Christie soon had the audience in the palm of his hand, especially with 'How Great Thou Art'. I note big Peter has a season's residency spot at Butlins (Ayr) every Wednesday. Have a listen to his excellent new single 'The Only Woman', which is on his own Pronto label. The closing section of the show was provided by the Ruby Rendall Band. They had just arrived back from Nashville the previous night, but it certainly did not show in the band's performance. Ruby tells me that they featured on the Grand Ole Opry as part of the Jean Shepard Show and also starred in their own show at the Best Westerners Club. Ruby also asked me to express her public thanks to Sandy Paul of the Aberdeen CWC via this column, for sponsoring the band's visit to Nashville.

CLUB VISITS

● The Flag and Saddle Club, Livingston, had good crowds for visits by Big City, The Hank West Band, Black & Silver and the John F Storer Band.

● Edinburgh's Lone Star Club has lost its Victoria Park base (neighbours complained about the noise). In the

meantime, they have the use of the Gay Gordons Function Suite in Gilmerton, but plan to settle permanently in a new function suite in the Lovat Hotel, Inverleith Row, Edinburgh around the beginning of October.

● I went along to the Penville Club in the Navaar House Hotel, Penicuik, for my first hearing of the reformed Scot's Country Comfort. In my opinion, they are better now than they used to be and that's saying something. Their programme is basically as before, a mixture of cajun and Texas swing and even a touch of zydeco. A major influence in the band is the addition of keyboards, played by multi-talented Eddie Eugster. Steelie Dave Smith infers that they are the backing for Radio Scotland DJ Noel Cannon on his recently completed album of monologues.

● Unfortunately I missed the debut of the revitalised Waltons at the Reflections night spot in Corstorphine, but am reliably informed that they now sound better than the original line-up. Another band I missed was Gypsy, who appeared at the Tucson Club whilst I was on holiday, but I have heard nothing but praise for them, so they will be welcome back any time.

● Andy Boggie of Iona & Andy has been telling me that their recent tour of Scotland was their best ever, with their guests Sarah Jory on steel guitar and George Foster on drums. Apparently, they played to full houses at almost all their gigs.

● I plan to be present at both the Peterborough Festival and the Butlin's Festival in Ayr, so stop and say hello. If not, send any news or views to Jackie Blair, 122 Brunton Gardens, Edinburgh, EH7 5ET. Telephone: 031-556-9642.

NORTH WEST

BRIAN AHERN

● MACCLESFIELD'S musical entrepreneur Eugene Doherty has added another string to his musical bow by opening the Cheshire CMC at the Macclesfield Rugby Union Club. The venue is situated on the border of Prestbury, in stockbroker country. They mustered a good turnout for the opening night which featured Stroller with guest Bobby Buck. Stroller are becoming one of this area's hot properties and they gave the new club a first class display of their talents.

The following week saw Southern Breeze, a Manchester based duo bring their popular show to Cheshire. Another guest duo Good Behaviour, comprising two good looking Irish colleens making their country music club debut, decided on a name change on the night. (One wit said it was because Ahern does not understand the meaning of the words Good Behaviour). Their new name is Firebrand and it's one to watch out for. I rated them highly.

The third Cheshire CMC show saw Red Moon Joe take the stage with a youthful, high energy show of mainly self-penned material which had ole 'wonderword' Pete Coffey bopping in the aisles. It's also nice to see the local musos using the club for a night out and general meeting place.

● One of my greatest pleasures over the past three years has been presenting the annual awards at the High Peak CMC at the Railway Hotel, Buxton. It's one of the many rewards of writing for 'CMRU', because it's one that money can't buy. Dave Buxton, his team and club compere Jeff Twigg have discovered what organising a club is all about and they always generate a good atmosphere among members. The club 'Solo' award went to Johnny Marks for the third year and 'Band Of The Year' went to West Virginia. Both award acts provided the entertainment on a night of quality.

● One of my 'at home' Sunday haunts is the Hazel Grove CMC. I caught two of their shows during the month, firstly Joe Piper & Country Courage, the Liverpool Sultans of Swing. Leader Joe will never be in Dire Straits with this crowd pleasing outfit. They gave the 'Groovers' a good show. The second show starred Paddy Kelly and the Kelly Band. Paddy has been off the road for a while (personal reasons), but has put them all behind him now and formed a new band of old faces which really cook. Their material is up to date, which has always been a hallmark of this man's performance. His rapport with his audience was razor sharp. Welcome back, Paddy, you

will keep all other Liverpool bands on their toes. The club compere had a mighty fine birthday treat at this show. Many of them Dave Whitfield.

● I paid a flying visit to Manchester's Band On The Wall on a Capped Crusader mission to see Flaco and his Anglo Tex Mex Band - the old foot's still tapping. The place was choc a block and rightly so for this band who have only four days off work in a fifty-three day tour. Who said live music is on the decline?

● Welsh darts wizard Alan Evans has bought the redundant Bridge Hall Social Club, Adswold, Stockport, re-designed the interior and opened it up as The Alan Evans Darts And Social Club. I discovered Alan is a country music fan and that he's started to feature the music as a Saturday night attraction, so I darted in (awful pun) to check out (another) Ford Country, (who have upgraded to a four piece band) and had a smashing night out. Ford Country's forte is entertainment via the popular country standards and encouraging the audience to sing along. It works well and creates an atmosphere of enjoyment. That's entertainment, folks!

● I went back to the Cheshire CMC to earn a crust. Oh, how I need the bread, if only to subsidise the younger Capped Crusader's drinking habits. Keith Goslin & Durango starred with Johnny Reno in support. Keith & Durango gave a splendid show which pleased the 'out for a good time' audience. Johnny Reno impressed with his 'keep it country' offerings.

● Sue, the lovely young compere of the Stretford CMC, 'phoned to ask if I would do the presentation on their award show night. I am honoured. Marie Lester & Hobo are the club's choice as 'Entertainers Of The Year', a fine choice from a fine club. Marie Lester is soon off to America to seek her fame and fortune, so Freddie Duffy is to join Hobo as lead singer. Freddie is another stalwart of the North West country scene, so it's a pleasure to see him fronting a band again.

● I had a nice letter from Johnny Decker and Joni Jay inviting me to JR's in Rhyl, North Wales. They info that this country and western hotel presents country music seven lunch-times and evenings each week. I must make a point of calling next time I'm in 'Taffsville'.

Brian Ahern, 11 Villedale Avenue, Offerton, Stockport, SK2 5SQ. Telephone: (061) 483 9532.

SCOTS SCENE

DAVE HENDRY

AYRSHIRE BOUND . . .

● THIS month will see one of the largest country music festivals ever to take place in Scotland. All eyes seem to be cast towards Butlin's Holiday Centre, Ayr, and according to the news picked up on club calls over the past few weeks, it seems pretty certain that the event will be a success.

VINTAGE FORD . . .

● No, not the model 'T', but every inch as respected, is Gerry Ford who, with his excellent band Gambler, recently gave the show of their lives at Tuscon CMC, and I know there are those who will say and class this as just another country night out . . . this was a Gerry Ford, who in all the years I have known him, has never been bettered. So much so, that even I forgot where the bar was - due to listening to a sparkling performance taking place, without a glass. I noticed even our friendly visitors and officials from the Commonwealth Games were more than a little taken with this performance. We (Scotland) may not have won many gold medals at the sports gathering, but who cares - we were gaining a gold medal performance from Mr Ford & Gambler.

FAST LANE ON ROUTE 65 . . .

● Speaking of gold, yet another 'find' comes to the surface via Route 65 - new drummer Brian Thomson. Amazing to learn that the lad is a virtual newcomer to country - only a few months I believe. The combination of drums and vocals is something special from this lad, of which I strongly advise an earful. Not to distract from the band, I feel the combo are now stronger than ever before. Maureen and Jimbo are a delight to hear - particularly their arrangement of 'Somewhere Between You and Me', which I hope will be included on their next album. Conditions at the Douglas CMC for this show were proving pretty hazardous, what with temperatures way out of all normality for our state of health, which saw many reduced to stripping down to T-shirts and whatever else could be disposed of . . . A neat little venue and a very welcoming committee, who work tirelessly to keep country going at the Country Club Hotel.

SOUTHERN STAR COTTON ON . . .

● One of the finest shows to be seen this year, at the Europa Lounge, has to be the Cotton Mill Boys, so much so, that the venue was sold out weeks in advance. The Ayr club has been on a 'high' over the past few weeks and according to secretary, Isa Craig, that's the way it will continue . . . love that determination. Having seen some of the acts who have, and will be, appearing at the Southern Star, I reckon I agree.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? . . .

● Not a lot, presuming one hasn't seen the same act perform under another title. Fortunately, this occasion

was more than a shade beneficial. Silver Wings (formerly Redwing) fooled yours truly; just as well, as I would never have believed this was the same outfit who had recently created so little impression at an Edinburgh venue. But, in all fairness to these lads from Cupar Angus, they have persevered, and seem - at last - to have got their act together - and how! Gone is the draggy, boring clunk twang bang, and now in its place is one of the steadiest and closest of musicianship heard at the Southern Comfort CWC - and those harmonies are well worth an earful. Likewise, the non-vocal arrangement of 'Ghost Riders' (Cash would never have done it like this) and their own arrangement of 'Folsom Prison'. Add to this the non-stop hoedown, which had us lose a few pounds - and that was only sitting. Yes, I do believe we will be hearing lots more of Silver Wings . . .

ARBROATH JAMBOREE . . .

● Sandi Hart - Scots Country Comfort - Gringo is a line up to do credit to any country club jamboree . . . if the venue matches the quality of the acts. It is difficult to make comment on any act in such surroundings, so I won't. Enough to say the venue was fairly well packed and many travelled great distances (Ayrshire, plus regular club-goer, Robert Farquhar, who journeys regularly from Falkirk) to disappointment. Knowing Lui & Liz Forte as I do, I feel sure that the choice of next year's 'venue', will take a greater priority.

I HEAR THAT . . .

● Gerry Ford was almost upstaged during his hoedown session by four year old, Julie Maybury, from Edinburgh. The youngster was the talking point of many visitors . . . Skin & Bone are now reckoned to be Scotland's answer to the Duffy Brothers. The duo have been gathering high plaudits over the past months . . . Hank West & Hank West Band are now running the Stagecoach CWC at the Kinloch Arms Hotel, Carnoustie. The show goes on a monthly basis, since the disbandment of the committee.

Scottish Country Music Fellowship plan to give members a free show on either side of the country next May. One show has been planned for Ayrshire, while the other will take place at an east coast venue . . . Collier Dixon Line have been credited as the best act to date, at the Double K CMC, in Dumfries. Secretary, Jim Kerr, expressed great delight at the performance and feedback from members . . .

● To Wells Fargo CWC's Liz Forte, who has just been through two major operations. Our sincere wishes for a speedy recovery.

● See you along the way . . . meantime, take care of your 'country'.

Dave Hendry, Greenfaulds
Cumbernauld, G67 4AW Phone: 02367 35033

BORDER COUNTIES

SHEILA KENNY

● A SHORTER than usual report, as holidays have kept me away from the local scene - but

The Lingen CMC's last event featured a very popular young lady from Wales, Maralene Powell. Maralene was in fine form and got a great reception from the large crowd. Country Company also did two good sets, adding a couple of new numbers along the way. The latter act also played the Lazy Acre CMC recently, as support to Pinkerton's Colours. A Full House saw Pinkerton's turn in two very good sets. A very appreciative crowd, making the boys feel at home and bringing out the best in them.

● Local venue Turkey Hall, at Bucknell had its biggest country night yet, with the appearance of Miki and Griff. A sell-out show, and what a night the crowd had from these two lovely people. This quality act had their fans shouting for more. In the end one encore was not enough and the customers, I'm sure, would have willingly stayed all night listening to this fine duo.

● I enjoyed my night at the Penny Black Inn, at Knowbury near Ludlow. Every Wednesday brings a country show there. Hereford's Dennis Davies was doing the honours on stage on the night in question. Dennis is a highly rated, local, solo act, but also forms one half of the

well-known duo Calico (wife Brenda being the other half). A couple of fine sets from him included some good guitar instrumentals. The venue Landlord, Barry Bloom, together with a few customers, have now formed a social committee, so will shortly be launching a country music club to be known as the Golden Nugget. Their first event is this month, at a local hall (Lesley Lord is the lady to contact).

● I saw a young lad from the Presteigne area called Mark Brown, and from what I heard, I think we could have another good, local, solo act in the making. He seemed very committed, worked hard at his act, and he was pretty handy on the guitar.

● Shag Connors and his boys have been doing their annual stint at the Royal Welsh Show, at Builth Wells. Tammy Jones, along with Campbell's Country were also featured on the last night of the event. My holiday kept me away from all this, but I hope to have details next month.

● Newtown based Dane Stevens played for a packed house at the Craven Arms Hotel, covering well with a wide range of material. He tells me he's usually kept pretty busy and shortly to leave for a five-week stint in Portugal.

● That's it! Things should be back to normal next time. Don't forget any regional news please to: Sheila Kenny, Sansheleam, Lingen Bucknell, Shropshire, SY7 0DY Telephone: (0544) 267736



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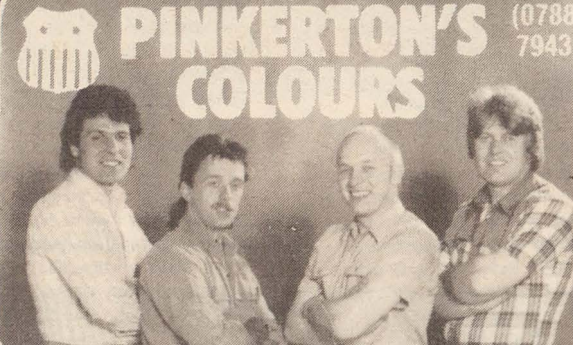
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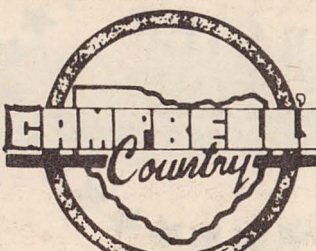
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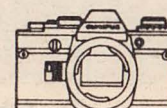


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WALES FRANK POWER

● AT the Irish Club, Newport, Stu Page and Remuda were the latest band to discover that the crowd are not always fully orientated into country music, but fortunately, do appreciate any music if played well. Stu and the lads have no trouble in this respect, and can entertain any audience, as they are versatile. I had to leave immediately after the group's first spot, which was all country - best of which for me, was their very first number, 'No Time At All'. 'Black Mountain Rag' also did me good: a fantastic instrumental exercise.

● Always interested in new acts to the area, I drifted into the Imperial Hotel to see Shotgun Duo visiting from the Leeds region. Mike and Tony didn't. I'm afraid, impress the Swansea CMC gathering, but they did put over some nice material such as, 'California Road', which took my fancy. I'd like to see them again - another time, another place - as I've a feeling this wasn't their best night.

● The End of the Trail, at Worcester, provided me with my first sighting of Johnny Marks, since Wembley last year, when I posted rave notices. The only sound, apart from his voice and music, was the odd pin dropping. He did mention that he was often criticised for his material and, I guess I have to go along with that observation. But, his talent is such, that it seems people don't mind what he sings. Linda and Arthur James also entertained well, and I liked their rendering of 'This Good Girl's Going To Go Bad'.

● The old man from the mountains, in the shape of Cal Ford, together with his Brakemen, again lit up the Santa Fe Bar, at Station Terrace, Cardiff. The attendances are improving, and so is Terry - the breaktime presenter - who at last has spun Roy Clark for me in the form of 'Paint Me A Song'. 'Wildwood Flower' from the trio; 'Tulsa Time' from the floor guest, Steve Keetch; and chicken chasseur from the bar; now that's a fair night. Later in the month, Alan Crompton took Paul's place on lead to become the latest in a long line of Brakemen. 'Jack of Diamonds' rang out from the trio, and yet another Roy Clark track from the presenter.

● The Malpas Unionist Club is the home of the OK CMC, a trio - Country and Western by name, but not, I feel, by nature. Julie and the boys have talent, but not the feel (at least not yet) for country music. The Collins Family made changes from their last visit, but entertained well, paving the way for Dennis Bray and Loose Change (Shades of Cuttin' Loose) their bass player being a converted lead guitarist for the occasion.

The sound was good and the group brought back memories, connected with the club and the area, of former years. 'Til I Can Gain Control Again', provides a nice sample of their offerings... Rounding up the month at the OK was Memphis Short and Grand Canyon who received a rousing ovation.

● 'Rio Grande Time' at the Pier Hotel, Mumbles was when the Foster Boys hit town, doing their original 'White Mansions-type' songs as one of their three interesting spots, in the Cinderella Ballroom. A nice touch - leaflets on each table with the songs and programme. 'Soldier Gray', I thought was the best of the night from the lads from the Telford area... Phil Wallace and Empty Pockets, one of my favourite outfits, seemed to storm their way through every performance. Shel Silverstein influences abound. The strong unique vocals of Phil clearly showed why he has become a darling at Pontin's. Nice night, including 'Cover of the Rolling Stone', and implemented by guest from the floor Linda, with 'Top of the World'... The 'High Plainsman' descended from the hills long enough to give atmosphere to the Collector's Bar where, until the audience numbers increase, the shows will be held, instead of the Cinderella. These boys were enjoyed by all, especially for their up-tempo medley. Then we were raided by a 'Gang from the Black Mountains' who, deciding we were a nice bunch, didn't take our valuables, but entertained us instead. In fact, at the drop of a hat (which was then passed around) they played another spell, until the midnight hour. 'North to Alaska' and the lovely 'Orchid and the Rose' were best for me. With floor guests (Springfield County) plus the Black Mountain Raiders, who consist of past members of three different acts, we had four acts - a really first class night.

● I reported in the last issue, that the Dixie Rebel Lady won the fancy dress at the Nelson Show. It should, of course, have been the Texas Critter Lady. (That's what rushing to meet a deadline does to you.)

● I met up with John Poole, of the disbanded Kickback Band, one time residents at the, now defunct, Caerphilly CMC. He's now residing in Scotland, so he tells me this column is his only way of keeping in touch with his 'local scene'. Nice to know.

● I'm off to see Hamilton's Power, so I'd better saddle up. My 'Star Spot' of the month - Johnny Marks with 'Green Fields of France'. See you next month.

Frank Power, 1 Alma Road, Roath
Cardiff, CF2 5BD
Telephone: 492021

SHADES OF GREEN D K O'BOYLE

A VERY LOW EBB

● IN the sixties and seventies, country music was the number one music attraction throughout Ireland, with leading names enjoying superstar status as number one attractions and as top record sellers. Sadly, with the demise of the big ballrooms, country stars seem to have lost their old magic, with a new generation of dancers. Today, recorded music has replaced the 'live' music attraction, so most country bands are forced to work at weekends only, because it is now a case of too many bands and too few venues. Even the international country artists are no longer guaranteed to make a profit for the promoters. The Silk Cut Country Festival in Belfast was badly attended and it seems it is no longer a major television attraction for BBC TV (Northern Ireland) to record... The Carling Country Music Festival in Cork was axed and there are no plans to revive it as Carling now sponsor the pop shows there... We are told the Ricky Skaggs show lost promoter Jim Aikens in excess of £5,000 on his Belfast and Dublin shows, while we are also informed Glen Campbell had his Irish dates cancelled due to lack of advance bookings.

● Another disappointment was that many local country music critics were expecting 'new' star Daniel O'Donnell, to win the 'Euro Country Music Masters', staged in West Germany some weeks back. But, the coveted Gold Star Award was won by the host country and Ireland's entry was unplaced. There's no doubting also that many feel the recording labels have failed to invest money promoting their new country acts, while others blame the media for the lack of exposure to country music in general. Apart from old names, few newcomers have made much impact (except perhaps for Daniel O'Donnell), with the 'new' younger country music fans and now critics even predict that over the next few months, some top Irish country music bands will be forced into retirement due to lack of work. A sad tale indeed!

ERNE SIDE THE NUMBER ONE

● Since it was launched some two and a half years back, Erne Side Community Radio, broadcasting from Belturbet, Co. Cavan, has become the number one

broadcasting sound with country music fans on both sides of the Border. Broadcasting eighteen hours daily, the station has a policy of 'country 'n' Irish only' and, to further promote such sounds, they have their 'Annual Awards Show', which last year raised in excess of £1,000 for the 'Live Aid' fund.

● Singer Johnny McEvoy is back in the market place with a superb new single 'Someone To Love', his best offering for some time... Folk come country songstress Maura O'Connell, should enjoy much media attention with 'Another Morning', a track from her album 'Just In Time', which she recorded in Nashville... After a slight delay, Failte Records issue 'Song Of Ireland' from Dermot Moriarty & Tennessee. Our congratulations to Dermot, who has just announced his engagement to Trish Cragh... Country duo Family have their debut cassette on the market, 'Double Vision', ten country 'n' Irish tracks from Kate and Mike, which include their recent hit 'Remembering The Way It Used To Be'.

COUNTRY ROUND UP IN BRIEF

● Delighted to welcome Paddy O'Flaherty back to BBC Radio Ulster each Saturday afternoon with ninety minutes of 'O'Flaherty's Country'. For bluegrass fans, Niall Toner has returned to RTE Radio 1 each Saturday mid-morning, with his great sixty minute 'Country Heartland' programme... After a spell with Sandy Kelly's band and Brian Coll & The Buckaroos, singer/guitarist Ginger Morgan is set to launch his own band once more. We wish him well... Congratulations to Brendan Shine, who made the British Country Music Association Top Twenty Chart with his album 'Memories'. A great collection from the popular Athlone singer. We also extend our congratulations to singer John Kerr, who was presented with a 'Gold' disc by Homespun Records for sales in excess of 25,000 of his albums... After their recent Irish tour, good reports on the Birmingham based Newliners Band featuring father and daughter on vocals. Their debut cassette has much to offer according to Irish agent Kevin... Sad to read that pirate stations are now demanding £200 for record air-spins. Such greed will, in the end, force government action, as no-one approves of 'Payola', no matter how popular the radio station may be.

● 'Til next month, keep it country. Slan Go Foil!
D K O'Boyle, Bunbeg, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
Telephone: (075) 31176.



● Eamonn and Barry of Erne-Side Community Radio presenting Daniel O' Donnell with a coveted award.

Photo: Neilly Keeney

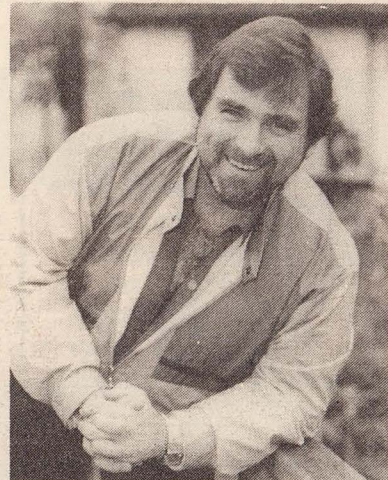
ULSTER REPORT RICHARD DUDGEON

● IN recent weeks the Kid Wayne Country Band has completed an extremely successful tour of the South of England, including dates near Land's End. Then they celebrated American Independence Day performing back in Larne, following which they immediately boarded the ferry to Stranraer for an eight day tour of Scotland. There is also good news on the recording front from this busy entertainer as he and his advisors have been selecting material for a new album. We're told the theme has been arrived at and plans are being made to have it recorded with top session players at a quality recording studio in 'Music City' USA.

● Kid says he's very excited about the complete project, including the initial suggestions of songs, right through to the fulfilment of his long held ambition, to record in the home of country music.

● Hugo Duncan, the wee man from County Tyrone, has just released his fifth album for the Homespun label. The album contains a mixture of country and Irish songs, with such popular tracks as 'Mary Ann Regrets', 'Kentucky In The Morning', 'My Own Peculiar Way', 'Cottage On The Borderline', 'I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen', 'Take Me Back To Castlebar', 'Village Where I Went To School' etc. Hugo puts the songs over in the inimitable relaxed style which now has him rated as one of Ireland's top singers. I'm told Hugo has started 1986 with new vigour, having already lost three stone in weight (he feels it helps him to perform better).

● Starting out many years ago with the hit single 'Dear God', Hugo and his band The Ranchers have made tours of the USA, England, Scotland and Wales, as well



● Hugo Duncan has his fifth album released

as appearing on television for RTE and BBC Ulster. Known as a man with a happy-go-lucky personality, Hugo's currently enjoying travelling the success road.

● The El Paso CMC members, on hearing of the plight of one of its supporters who, due to a motor cycle accident, has to undergo treatment at Stoke Manderville Hospital (costing £2,000 and involving the fitting of new computerised legs), have rallied round and so far their efforts have raised £1,100. They hope to complete the event and hand over the full amount to member Robert McMaw at a grand 'All Star Country Music Benefit Show' in the Crossway's Cabaret Lounge, Raloo, Larne on the 10th of this month.

● Artists already offering their services include Eileen King and her band the Kingsmen, Big Jim Anderson, Auriol Campbell, Davy Hamilton, Nashville Express and Dominic Kerwin. Anyone else interested in helping out financially or appearing on the show can contact Jackie McCartney on (0231) 66455.

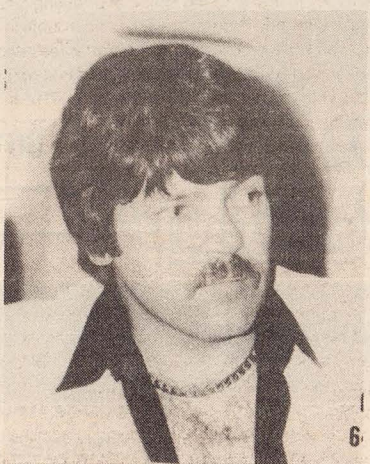
● That's it for this time around. The address as usual for all your Ulster news is Richard Dudgeon, 10 Kitchener Street, Belfast, BT12 6LE.
Telephone: (0232) 240415.

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● Johnny Marks at The End of the Trail.



● I'VE moved! Just along the road to my own pad at last! The new address is 65 Victoria Road, Netley Abbey, Hants. Please note the new telephone number is (0703) 455972.

● With copy date at 31st July for the September issue, a note now that 'Stud' Davies (I hesitate to ask the origin of that nickname), sends details that the Isle of Wight CMC has had its Pagham, Nr. Godshill, venue face-lifted. There's a new stage, kitchen and bar, but not to worry, 'Burt's Beer' is still on tap for the breathalaiser adventurers.

Notable guest bands at the Isle of Wight club have been Ellie Scott, that great little lady from Camberley Surrey, who stepped in for absent Tony Collins and brought that super band of hers along and Bobby Howard & Southern Roots guested on another occasion. Their forthcoming list includes Clovis Country, George Moody & Country Squires, Tennessee Whisky, Georgia and (in October) that fine fiddler from the Far East (originally) Tokyo Matsu with Hamilton's Power. Thanks for the info 'Stud'.

● Many thanks to regular purveyor of news Neil Coppedale of the Brighton CMC who sent, unasked, a 'runaround' ticket for his Brighton Country Music Festival.

● Ray Dunn and Roy Cadwell don't hail from the area, but deserve a quick mention for their enterprise in publicising their Country And Western Weekend up at Pontin's Holiday Village, Ainsdale, Southport on 15th and 16th November this far South. I see those great Moat Brothers are among the offerings there. Can't be bad!

● My 'local', Wildwood South CMC, gets a hot from the press newsletter to me and it's a mine of information as per usual. I'm reminded there are now eighteen years and over fifteen hundred country music shows behind the brainchild of one Reg Lodge et al, and I even see the lad being optimistic with his quote, 'Things are not too bad!'

It does make me wonder sometimes, when reading for example, the August issue of 'CMRU', just what we have to do to get 'our' music out from under the 'Cinderella' tag? There's so much going on, so much enthusiasm, so much coverage of so many country events.

Wildwood South CMC are just another example of the hardworking country buffs, without whom the whole thing I feel could disappear, somewhere around the horse's rear end, to paraphrase a well-known saying!

● Another lad who, with his long-suffering missus and crew, keeps things a-humming up in the Oxford area, is Jim Eagles of the West Way CMC, Witney, (Sundays). His way ahead programme is, as usual, looking good, with Memphis Short & Grand Canyon on 31st August (don't miss that one). Bromford County, Carlton Moody & The Moody Brothers, George Moody & Country Squires and Firewater fill the September dates, with Manson Grant & The Dynamos, Blazing Saddles, Ricky & Ramrods and Hawk doing the same for October and it goes on! A special invite from Jim to yours truly for 14th September (Carlton Moody) and although life, in several ways, is in a bit of the old two and eight at the moment, I'll try!

● Roaming around the immediate South one sees that the Portsmouth CMC still holds forth at its seafront Rock Gardens Pavilion. . . . The Boar's Head, one of, if not the original country music club in the region, over on top of Portsdown Hill, is still in its Ponderosa setting. . . . There's the Railway Club, Littlehampton, West Sussex and Chichester CMC has its various and many venues around that area. . . . Basingstoke CMC (are you still out there John)? . . . Wokingham (Berks) still had two clubs when I last heard, one I haven't visited yet. . . . Back in Dorset, or rather the immediate vicinity of Bournemouth, there's the High Chapparall in Bournemouth, Flight Refuelling at Merley (a real good un) and there's still a club at Ringwood so far as I know, as news is scarce.

● Well, it's now got around to 30th July as I write this closing paragraph, a trifle near the deadline, but one is always optimistic of some late news. Nothing! OK, listen you lot out there! I'll repeat the address of my humble abode and if you've got any spare furniture (cheap) or spare blankets etc., (ditto), drop me a line at 65 Victoria Road, Netley Abbey, Hants or ring (0703) 455972. I've only moved about the length of a football pitch or so. I'm just going to drop Bob Geldof a line, seeing that he helps those in need.

● Still, once the pad is all up together, it will be 'home' and capable of holding the odd guest or two. If you are down this way call for a cuppa and a chat, right near the sea, nice little 'village', the pubs are OK for grub and beer! Cheers for now. Ernie Sears.



● NORMALLY at this period of the year, it seems to be summer holidays that curtail visits to clubs, but my daughter's 18th birthday, and an operation, meant having a month spent reasonably close to home. Two visits to Pete Button's Virginian Club, at Northumberland Heath, one to see Amarillo - who I gather have had bass player 'Ferdie' in hospital, but is picking up again. This group suffer mixed reviews from country scribes, but certainly did enough, not only to send club members home happy, but left yours truly well contented with the fare provided. . . . On my other visit, Ed Pearson and Spellbound mixed the evening with their zany interpretation of country. It was nice to see Reg Haynes visiting with his family and hear him sing a couple of numbers. Every time I see Spellbound, they give the impression of getting better - must be something to do with the 'porridge' they are getting.

● At the long running Cheyenne Club's new venue in Parr Road, one of my favourite groups, Homer, provide just that mix of country and humour that I have grown to expect from this professional and polished group. Meanwhile, ex-Homer member, Alan Murray, has been playing the area, recently, with his new group, Alberta, and I've received good reports on them, so I must try and catch up with them for an earbashing. . . .

● I mentioned the Peak Freans Club earlier and it was at that club, I caught up with Jimmy Nichol & Firewater. This group, which seems to be making a favourite of itself at practically every club in the area, gave, what is now taken for granted, as its normal fully polished performance. The boys seem to go from strength to strength, and leave happy and satisfied customers all down the line. I was particularly taken with Jimmy's own composition, 'Baby Sweet Dreams', and - on what seems to be a report on the walking wounded this month - I hope bass player Steve, who was hospitalised, is now fit and well, although I know the group are more than thankful to Chris, for standing in during this period.

● I did manage a visit to Harry's Blacksmith Club, out at Thornwood, for the visit of T P Stubbs & The Bar Room Band. It was my first sight of this group and certainly I will try to catch them again in the area. T P's comments, concerning audience reaction up and down the country, in respect of the content of band repertoires, was interesting, and this group - which is capable of providing plenty of its own material - is well worth seeing.

● The ever-popular George Moody & Country Squires, together with Cliff Whelan, appear at a grand charity evening, on the 26 September, at Dorton House School, Seal, Sevenoaks, in aid of the Blind and Partially

Sighted Children. Tickets at £3 each, can be obtained from Brian Russell, 81 Selborne Avenue, New Haw, Weybridge, Surrey.

● Pity about Roy Cooper's Boxcar Club shutting, but here's news of two clubs which replace old with new ones, at the same venues. Roy & Lesley's Maverick Club, at Barking, has been replaced by Harry Howarth's Golden Nugget Club, at the Barking Football Club (still on a Sunday evening), and ex-Brooklands organisers, Joan and Dick, now run the Deri Park at the Deri CMC's old venue, in Rainham.

● The still flourishing Essex Country Music Association, present another of their specials this month, at the Festival Hall, Basildon. Topping the bill are Carlton Moody & The Moody Brothers, from Canada, supported by Homer, on Saturday 13 September.

● Other events to look for this month include a really attractive Silver Dollar Bill, at Norbury's Silver Dollar, with visits from Stu Page & Remuda, Tony Collins & Bakersfield, Rio, and The Rogue Band. While Joan Greenaway's Grange Club has visits from Al Cody & Clovis, Hurricane Ridge, Stewart Bros & First Chapter, and The Salt Box Band. . . . Out at Witney Town FC, Jim & Betty Eagle's regular Sunday club nights include from the Midlands, Bromford County, Canada's Carlton Moody & The Moody Bros, George Moody & Country Squires, and Firewater. (Almost a month of Moody's there.)

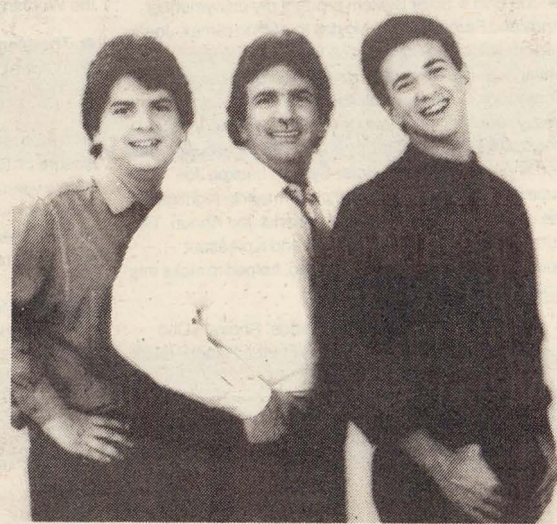
● In the Essex area, I note, Canvey Island's Mustang Club gets a call from Billy Finegan & Stagecoach, from the Midlands, and also hosts a special charity show, featuring, Hickory Lake & Vegas, on Saturday, 20 September. . . . incidentally, country host, Alan Woodhouse, features twice monthly at the Smallgains Hall, country-style dancing lessons. . . . and finally Wokingham Town F.C.'s H-Bar-C Club, present Colorado, Black Spur Road Band, Cargo, and the Raymond Froggatt Band, then October brings visits from Canadian, Grant Carson, Rio, and Gilley's Bar renegade, Wendel Adkins.

● Well, that seems to wind up my notes for this month. I'm preparing for a hectic Peterborough Festival weekend, although if history repeats itself, it will be a red-eyed, bleary-minded, shattered wreck, you see there. (Colinny Rools OK). And remember details as usual!

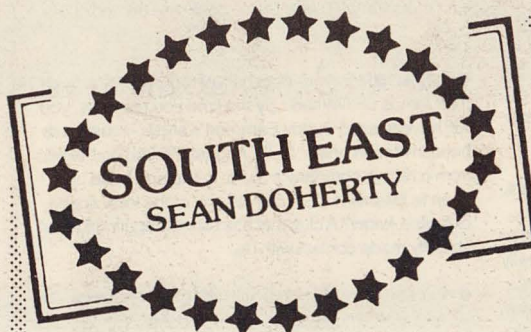
Tony Anderson
40 Cole Close, Thamesmead
London S28 8AU
Telephone: 01 310 2792.



George Moody



Carlton Moody & The Moody Brothers



● I was very sad to hear about the closure of the Silver Dollar CMC, which met at the Norbury Hotel, Norbury. The club did not close for the normal reason of lack of support, but was actually forced to shut down, due to the Hotel being closed, after what appears to have been a near-riot in the bar below, where the club was meeting. It seems that West Virginia had just started their last set, when the police and the landlord asked everybody to leave, to the sound of breaking glass in the background. Though there was no trouble in the club itself, but the police could not guarantee anybody's safety if they remained. It was reported that running battles with the police continued outside. The club, which has been meeting for ten years, is taking a break at the moment while the committee finds a suitable alternative venue. I wish them every success.

● I was speaking recently to Alan Woodhouse, who runs the Mustang CMC at the Paddocks, Canvey Island. He told me about the scoop he had just pulled off by booking the Yellowstone Picnic Band for their farewell gig, on Bank Holiday Monday. So if you receive this issue of 'CMRU' early enough, you might just catch it. It is sad to see the band break up like so many have of late. No doubt, the reasons for the split will have been reported elsewhere. The club, I should think, must, by all accounts, rank as the best attended venue in the area, especially as it meets every week. I have been reliably informed, that there are normally about 250 to 300

people in attendance each week, and they are now so used to the high standard of the acts presented, that they are becoming quite critical, which is nice to hear.

● It is always nice to have attention drawn to new bands on the scene, so I was pleased to hear from BJ and Silver Tip - a new name to me. The band is fully professional and consist of lead guitar, rhythm guitar, bass guitar, drums and female vocalist. They are based in the Hertfordshire area, but are prepared to travel, and are, in fact, soon to be found across the water, in Germany. For further details on the band, ring (0442) 55873.

● A charity night is being held this month, at Dorton House School, Seal, nr Sevenoaks, in aid of equipment for the school, which helps visually handicapped children. The show takes place on the last Friday of the month, and features George Moody & Country Squires and Cliff Whelan. The evening starts at 7.45 pm and goes on until about 11.00 pm. There will be food, a bar and a raffle. Tickets for the event are £3. (Contact Brian Russell, 81 Selbourne Avenue, New Hall, Weybridge, Surrey.)

● Well, that's it. As always, I can be contacted on (0304) 830627, or you can write to:
Sean Doherty,
Millstone, 3 Woolage Green
nr Canterbury, Kent.



● Cheyenne from Gloucestershire impressed

AVON CALLING JIM SILVERTHORN

● PLEASED to report that enjoyable evenings are the normal thing on country nights, at the Pioneer, in Keynsham. Alex Stephenson Band, Mike Ryder and Pete Mason have recently given some excellent performances to enthusiastic audiences.

● You wrote . . . From Barry, Swindon Silver Spur CMC, we learn fortnightly shows are going well, as he reports . . . 'What a good month we have just had, with OTT Country Band and Fox Mountain Express . . . Two very good nights of music, and played to full houses. Return visits are a must.'

● Neil Thomas' info is, that the Westbury White Horse CMC was well supported for the Black Spur Road Band, 'very professional, although a little progressive . . . but it brought in a number of young fans, and that must be good.' This club is taking a break until next month, when G -ordie West will be appearing.

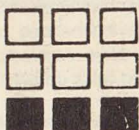
● A report from Tony Griffiths tells me the latest show at Frys CMC combined two very good acts. One was no stranger to the local scene, as Country Fresh come from Devizes. They turned in two good forty-five minute spots, and I'm told Ray's special humour always goes down well with the Frys audience - mainly at the expense of Maxine, who forms the other half of this very good

singing/comedy duo. Topping the bill were Stone Creek, hailing from the North Country. It was their first appearance in the Bristol area, and Tony reports, 'it's refreshing to see this very visual act perform both their own material, and standards in their own style' . . .

'If country music is ever to be accepted as a serious type of music, it is acts of the calibre of Stone Creek, who will be the forerunners. Well done lads! - Keep being different.' Seems to me a good night is always guaranteed at this first class venue. For future events, telephone Tony on Keynsham 67941.

● Ray Cornwell wrote to ask me to give a mention to his new club, Fergies Bar, Commercial St. Nelson, Mid Glam, which meets monthly. For further details, telephone 0443 450344.

● Many thanks to all those people who contributed to this month's column. Please keep it up. Don't forget, if you have any regional news or views, please write to: Jim Silverthorn
11 Fry's Hill, Kingswood
Bristol, BS15 4QJ
Telephone: 0272 671067.



WEST MIDLANDS JIM DUNCAN

● T P STUBBS & the Bar Room Band filled a longstanding return date, at Hilton Main, for the Wolverhampton Rangers - a club noted as much for its fast draw, as for its music. Good to see Chris and Sylvia bringing some new talent to this long running club. Great choice of music from T P. If you see the band, listen for his 'Years of Country Music' medley - 1940 through to '86 - with some really old classics like, 'You are my Sunshine' and 'Tumbling Tumble Weeds', up to 'Mona Lisa'. Spoke to the band about their lack of dates in the West Midlands, main comment was that if the organisers haven't seen them, then no bookings. Strange, some organisers/promoters never go to any clubs other than their own. Catch 22.

● Billy Farnsworth set the band alight the other night, with some nice break dancing. Shiloh were playing, Mid-Brum, when Billy's guitar went 'live' and put him on his back. Head player, Jim Bowan, concerned naturally for Billy's guitar being dropped, picked it up with the same result! Shook Billy up for quite a while . . . I know earth leakage sensors are expensive, but they break the circuit fast. Saw them play at the Wolverhampton Club's, Black Horse venue, drawing back the first decent house since the World Cup started.

● Last time Joe Piper & Country Courage, from Liverpool, were in this area, I was not impressed, and said so (brave lad!). Joe phoned me about his return booking, at the Double M, and how he agreed with me about last time. Couldn't make the show myself, but thanks to Walter Cooper, I can report that Joe's new approach and sound were good, including some Dire Straits cover versions styled similarly to Bob Young's Quo Country.

● Cashing in on cassettes, local heroes, Desperado, the Foster Boys, and Kenny Rowlands Duo all put new product on the market this month. Copies on the way for review.

● Didn't make the Smokey Mountains all-day tent festival this year, but reports state that it was a lot warmer, and now looks set to be an annual event.

● Caught the 'Live Aid-One Year On' show on TV. There must have been all of thirty seconds' coverage shown of the Country Aid Show, at Telford's Ice Rink, with a glimpse of some westerners and a flash of Wrexham's Cindy & Dave. Yet the TV crew was there filming for over three hours. Even Ron Jones, from Marder Sound, and myself as comperes had to sign disclaimers to say we would not get paid. The show's organiser, Matthew Carr, has gone on to better things and his show, on BBC Radio Shropshire, is now almost

pure country without the R & R and sounds from the '50's and '60's. Ken Dudeney had that burden on BBC Radio West Midlands and in the end they dropped the country slot.

● Met up with some original blasts from the past. Bus Brown (ex Driftwood) fronting John O'Boyle's Cotton Gin band - sadly, without the charm of Carrole up front. Good ol' Gin line up, the O'Boyles (Senior and Junior) on bass/drums, Andy Wain back on steel, Bus on rhythm/vocals (sorry I can't remember Bus's old lead player's handle). The band play all the old standards and Cotton Gin favourites, while Bus still favours the music of J R - Cash that is. Catch this band on the club circuit, as Penny Black. Same back-line comedian up front.

● Lights hidden under bushels of foolish virgins, with their lamps untrimmed? By the time you read this, you will have missed Buddy Eammon's show - must have been invitation only on 21 August. Picked up the info from a record company's blurb. A Midland band has been to Nashville USA, but did any of the local scene, clubwise, know? A club that has been struggling to start actually made contact with us.

● Worked a show in Bucknall with Colin Richards, and introduced the audience to Dwight Yoaken. Some of his tracks drew spontaneous applause.

● Derek O'Halloran has ventured into Walsall on Saturdays. At the Crest Hotel, saw Shiloh without Billy Farnsworth up front. Bird whisper's that Billy may be retiring soon. Perhaps he will sell them his amp. The band will have to sort the presentation out a bit though.

● Queenie has split from the Circle W, at Tipton, and has started her own club in Dudley called, naturally, the Silver Dollar. It meets on Thursdays.

CLUBS ON THE MOVE

● The Rocking 'B', from the Bramford Arms, to the Hillyfields, Sedgley . . . Ray Scott's Keep-it-Country' from the Fox & Goose, to the Yew Tree, Hobmoor Road, Yardley . . .

● The High Acres, Kingswinford, has closed its doors, but the Trafalgar, Hednesford, has re-opened on Fridays, with Johnny Wildwood, plus guests.

● Saw Joe Sun at the Ratcliffe Arms, Oxford. Very small club with tremendous atmosphere, so the landlord books in some of the best for concerts - Butch Hancock, Guy Clark, Steve Young, et al. Mentioned this because he said he had never had anybody in from CMRU before . . .

Phones there 0952 583672.
Or write: Jim Duncan
142 Warrensway, Woodside
Telford TF7 5QF

KEITH RENDER CLEVELAND DURHAM

● WINNERS of seven prestigious awards so far this year, West Virginia certainly stamped their personality on the evening's entertainment at Yarns New Cross Keys Hotel, with another highly slick, very amusing performance.

● Lincoln based duo Dave & Sue (Sewell) worked hard to entertain the Guisboro Quoit Club patrons before headliners Key West, with young Mike Larkin replacing Mickey Vicary on drums, took the stage. They sounded as good as ever (an investment in new gear paying dividends on this showing). Another large Quoits crowd enjoyed the highly polished, professional show from Hickory Lake. Several new numbers made an impressive showing, with drummer vocalist Bill Ford adding extra cream to this already very tasty dish. The very difficult opening set held no problems from Slim West, his music being well appreciated.

● I made it to the Alma Festival at South Shields at long last. Top class entertainment, full value for money, friendliness and Geordie hospitality made it a memorable day out. I met up with my Hartlepool correspondent Jim Burns and his lovely wife, who were very enthusiastic about Nashville Fever's modern, original material at the Iona Club and also the visit of Key West to Rovers Quoit Club. Ye Olde Durhams Club saw Vegas go down very well and, back at the Iona, Redcar's youthful outfit, Shakedown, appeared confident enough, despite lacking in experience (one to see in six months' time). Jim also visited Shotton Colliery WMC where, apparently, Dillinger are immensely popular.

● A buffet night at Guisboro's Globe Hotel saw over a dozen local acts crammed into an action packed night at the Bunk House CMC. The warm, friendly atmosphere this small intimate room generates is a credit to organisers Kev Rae-mond and Dad Terry Bowes.

● A full house greeted Manson Grant & The Dynamos' debut at Barnard Castle's Go Country CMC and they were yelling for more after their first set. Seccy Sylvia Johnson felt the overall performance of this multi-talented band transcended anything previously seen at Glaxo. Celebrities on the night included Radio Manchester DJ Colin Martin and ardent Go Country supporter John Lamb. John presents the 'Country Sunshine' programme on Bishop Auckland Hospital Radio, regularly taping Glaxo shows for broadcast to the patients.

● Joe Sun & Solar System brought my enjoyment of Andy and Fergie's (who) big day to a fitting climax. Joe's superb voice and unique style were seen to full advantage in two magical sets of numbers ranging from honky tonk to sensitive bluesy ballads to out and out heavy rockers. All the old favourites were there, interspersed with songs off his forthcoming album, which you should look out for. Solar System backed Joe superbly, with an exhilarating performance, highlighting the outstanding talents of lead guitarist Joe Khouri. Two numbers from Roger Humphreys and a pleasant opening set from the Eric White Duo, helped to make this a night to remember.

● Of the 'Home-grown' talent, Leeds' Shotgun Duo pleased the punters on my first visit to the Ranch House

CMC (Saturdays) at Stokesleys Eastwoods Sports & Social Club. It was packed out with folk out to enjoy themselves in true 'woolie back' style.

● On home territory, Vince Clayton's pop style of country was greeted with mixed feelings by Marske Cricket Club members, where standing room only awaited latecomers.

● Vegas seemed a little bemused by happenings at South Bank FC, but I give this fine band great credit for playing along with the revellers who decided to air their own voices on stage. 'Just like Gilley's on a Saturday night' commented Radio Cleveland's Stan Laundon. Nice to see the plaster's off Stan. Are those two fingers permanently set in that position, or were you just ordering two beers?

● Revived Pinto received a warm welcome from fans on their return to Middlesbro Cycling Club. After a lengthy absence, it was good to see Barry, Ted and John together and enjoying their music.

● Nashville Cats were new to me, but familiar faces appeared at the Redcar Navy Club. Pat and Graham Esterill were organisers of the charity do I attended at Whitby's Royal Hotel earlier this year (£280 raised). A painful five month lay-off for Graham left them a little rusty on the night, but the planned addition of lead guitarist Les Ryan should add extra bite to their shows.

● Loftus Cricket Club were pleased with the showing of previously unknown Leeds' soloist Paul Allen. Even allowing for all the sound problems at Longlands Social, I was not overly keen on my first viewing in this area of Mal Carson's Trucking Co. Hopefully it was an off night, but, by departing early, I caught an excellent second half show from the Boothill Boys at nearby Dormans Athletic Club. I also enjoyed Roger Knowles at the Bunk House, where the addition of a top local lead guitarist, for me, did nothing to enhance the performance.

● Back at Guisboro Quoits, Deuce Duo generated their usual very good sound in two entertaining spots of varied material. Cheyenne's bright, modern country approach brought a mixed response from the masses on their first tour of the region. More on this young Gloucester based outfit next month . . . Stockton's Arizona recently appeared at Glasgow's Grand Ole Opry for the first time . . . Local one man band Eric White recently completed a tour of the Bristol area. Young, up and coming soloist Kev Rae-mond is to follow suit . . . For Key West, now read Dallas Cowboys. That's the new name the lads will use during Christine's temporary retirement, immediately following their appearance at the Worthing Festival.

● The Jean Shepard, Billy Walker, Rusty Adams (Koko The Clown) Show package hits Middlesbro this month, the Town Hall being the venue.

● A promising opening in May, dramatic slump in June, closure in July. So goes the history of I.C.I. Wilton Rec Club's venture into country . . . Local favourites the Gibsons have now sadly disbanded . . . Look out for the newly formed Dollar Band. I'm quietly confident they will soon be in big demand on the North East circuit.

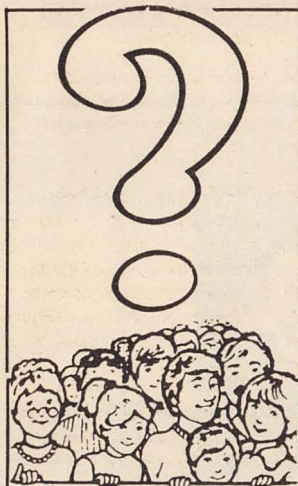
● That's it for this month. Keith Render,
21 Scanbeck Drive, Marske-by-Sea, Redcar,
Cleveland. Telephone: (0642) 476509.



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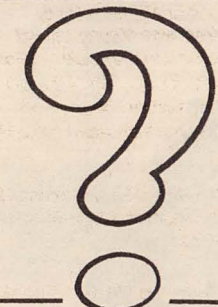
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HARROW CMC (Thursdays)
'Morrits', Adj. Wealdstone FC, Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex.
4 Dixie Allon Band; 11 Frank Jennings Syndicate; 18 Hickory Lake; 25 Rio

ROSSINGTON LABOUR CLUB (Mondays)
Garrison Lane, Rossington, Doncaster, South Yorkshire.
1 Rio Grande; 8 Chuck Layburn; 15 Easy Rider; 22 Jim Ryder; 29 Iona & Andy

CON'S COUNTRY (Saturdays)
Immingham Conservative Club, Kings Road, Immingham, Grimsby, Humberside.

6 Boothill Boys; 13 Raymond Froggatt Band; 20 Wells Fargo; 27 Leapy Lee Show

YORK CMC (Thursdays)
York City Arms Sports Club, Fawcett Street, York.

4 Eric White; 11 (Special) Keith Manifold plus John Aston; 18 (Star Night) The Moody Brothers (USA); 25 Gordon Lemondine & Rhinestone

GOLDEN WEST CMC (Sundays)
Carpenters Arms, Fenton, Nr. Lincoln.

3 Country Tandem; 10 Ryman Country; 17 Cliff Whelan; 24 Pat Judge & Country Style; 31 Lonesome Country Duo

BRAMLEY SOCIAL CLUB (Thursdays)
Cross Street, Bramley, Rotherham.
4 Pete Ryan & The Road Band; 11 Tony Dallas & Katy; 18 Cliff Ledger Family; 25 Billy Finnegan & Stagecoach

LEASOWE CASTLE CMC (Thursdays)
Leasowe Castle Hotel, Leasowe Road, Moreton Wirral, Merseyside.
4 Western Union; 11 Hogwash; 18 Rainbow Country; 25 Weaver Band.

HAZEL GROVE CMC (Sundays)
Reform Club, Napier Street, Hazel Grove, Stockport.
7 Harvey; 14 Naden Band; 21 Dave McQueen & Bucksin; 28 Randy Blue & Deep Water

WOLVERHAMPTON CMC (Fridays)
The Albion, Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton.
5 Tanglefoot; 12 TBA; 19 Clints Collection; 26 Stu Page & Remuda.

WOLVERHAMPTON CMC (Sundays)
The Black Horse, Thompson Avenue, Wolverhampton, West Midlands.
7 Ken Harris & Co; 14 Black Spur Rd Band; 21 Blazing Saddles; 28 Tanglefoot.

WOLVERHAMPTON CMC (Saturdays)
The Crest Hotel, Birmingham Road, Walsall.
Dates to be announced at this new venue.

INVERNESS CMC (Tuesdays)
Pharoahs Suite, Ice Rink, Inverness.
2 Tony Best & Silver City plus Shag Connors & The Carrot Crunchers; 9 Cotton Mill Boys; 16 TBA; 23 Carlton Moody & The Moody Brothers plus Centrefold; 30 TBA

IPSWICH CMC (Wednesdays)
c/o Bridge Ward Conservative Club, Austin Street, Ipswich.

10 Clancy; 17 Tennessee Whisky; 24 Lena & Five Card Trick

HIGH PEAK CMC (Monthly-Fridays)
Railway Hotel, Bridge Street, Buxton, Derbyshire.
19 Johnny Marks plus Mountain Davey & The Cajun Kid

EASTGATE CENTRE, SLEAFORD WHITE HART HOTEL, SLEAFORD
5 (Eastgate Centre) Warren Reeves & Clarksburg Express plus Dennis Procter; 19 (White Hart Hotel) Gordon Lemondine plus Watermelon Wine

ELGIN CMC (Fortnightly)
St Leonards Hotel, Duff Avenue, Elgin.

Sun 7 - 10th Anniversary One Day Festival - Special show - Elgin TH; 11 The Duke Boys; 25 Geoff Ashford

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Gene Watson - 'This Dream's On Me' - £6.99
Tompall Glaser - 'Nights On The Borderline' - £8.99
Reba McEntire - 'Whoever's In New England' - £8.99

SOUTHERN STAR CMC (Wednesdays)
Europa Lounge, New Rd, Ayr, Scotland.
3 Rodeo; 10 Trampas; 17 The Rogue Band; 24 Manson Grant.

NORTHERN GUILD OF SONGWRITERS
Present Country Music at the Riverside Banks, Nr. Southport.

PONDEROSA CMC (Fridays)
Pine Mine, Stowmarket, Suffolk.
5 Bob McKinlay & Dixie Fried; 12 Silver Ace; 19 Mary Millar & Saratoga Freeway; 26 Spill The Beans Trio

WILDWOOD SOUTH CMC (Saturdays)
Millbrook School, Lower Brownhill Road, Maybush, Southampton.
6 Rogue Band; 13 Dixie & Allon; 20 Tall Texan & Honky Tonk Cowboys; 27 Nashville Fever

PROSPECT CMC (Fridays Fortnightly)
Prospect Hotel, Harrogate, N Yorks.
12 Tony Best; 26 Rivendel.

RET福德 CMC (Fridays)
Newcastle Arms, Bridgate, Retford, Notts.
5 Paul Allen; 12 Terry Wilson; 19 J T McCall; 26 Ricki Sylva.

CADES COUNTY CMC (Fridays)
Shireoaks MW, Shireoaks, Worksop, Notts.
5 Dave Bryan Trio; 12 Parbola Country Band; 19 Linda & Arthur James; 26 Hombre.

CIRCLE W WESTERNER (Saturdays)
Brewer & Baker, Upper Church Lane, Tipton, West Midlands.
6 Delta Dawn; (Fri) 12 Bromford County; 13 Saddle Tramps; 20 Ramrod; 27 Steel Water Gang.

THE WELCOME CMC (Sundays)
Greyhound Hotel, East Lancs. Road, Leigh, Lancashire.
7 The Christie Hamilton Band; 14 The Foster Boys; 21 Desperado; 28 Collier Dixon Line

CLIFFSONS CMC (Mondays)
Railway Club, Wrexham, N Wales
1 Jeff's Talent Night; 8 Linda & Arthur James; 15 The Foster Boys; 22 Alan Junior; 29 Jim Ryder: resident host Jeff Cliffson at all shows.

ABERDEEN CMC (Tuesdays)
The Hotel Metro, 17 Market Street, Aberdeen.
2 Maggie & Tennessee Express plus support: 9 Ruby Rendall Band plus Shag Connors & The Carrot Crunchers; 16 Ann Breen & Her Band plus Shotgun; 23 Grant Carson Band plus support; 30 Manson Grant & The Dynamos plus Skin & Bone
BORDER CMC (Monthly 2nd Tues)
Black & Gold SC, Sheffield Park, Tweedmouth, Berwick - on - Tweed.
9 Armadillo.

BORDER BADLANDS COUNTRY CLUB (Monthly 1st Sunday)
Auld Smiddy, Gretna Green.
7 September - Linda & Arthur James.
5 October - Scot's Country Comfort.

BORDER PATROL CMC (Fridays)
c/o The Irish Club, Basildon Road, Laindon, Essex.
2 Charity Night - Homer & Tall Tex
HTC: 5 Country Law; 12 Country Echoes; 19 Spellbound; 26 Homer.

HIGH LANE CMC (Saturdays plus Specials)
High Lane Conservative Club, Buxton Road, High Lane, Stockport.
6 Mick Conlin Band; 13 Scot's Country Comfort; 19 Carlton Moody & The Moody Brothers (USA); 20 Kelvin Henderson Band; 21 Bluegrass Family Day (12.30-5pm); 27 Dittlinger

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COLCHESTER CMC (1st & 3rd Thursdays)
Woods Leisure Centre, Colchester.
4 Bob McKinlay & Dixie Fried; 18 Rio

QUEEN BESS COUNTRY (Thursdays)
Derwent Road, Scunthorpe, South Humberside.
7 Nightwood; 14 Linda & Arthur James; 21 Mel Hague; 28 John Aston Trio

LAZYACRE CMC (Fortnightly)
SHA Hospital Club, Racecourse Lane, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
8 Down County Boys, Keith Manifold, Tony Best; 15 Dance Night with Ian Ashcroft and Stryder Backstreet; 22 Marie Lester & Hobo, Dave Curtis.

THE BROKEN HORSESHOE CMC (Wednesdays)
North Wingfield WMC, North Wingfield, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.
3 Graham Broughton Duo; 10 Johnny Marks; 17 Parbola; 24 Dudes

GLASGOW'S GRAND OLE OPRY CLUB (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays)
2/4 Govan Road, Paisley Road Toll, Glasgow G51.

September Weekend Festival - Fri 26 Jeannie Sinclair & Stateside; Sat 27 Moat Brothers, P T Christie & Route 65; Sun 28 Colorado; Mon 29 Carmel. Plus regular nights.

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LABOUR CLUB (Fortnightly)
Saltcoats.
5 Trampas; 19 Country Pride.

MANCHESTER BIERKELLER (Thursdays)
77 Piccadilly, Manchester.
4 Armadillo; 11 Red Moon Joe & Jonathon Gold; 18 Silverwheel Express; 25 The Boss Bros; All plus Ian Ashcroft's Country Express Disco.

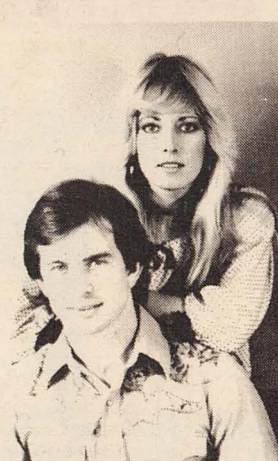
GO COUNTRY CLUB (Monthly 1st Sun)
Glaxo Sports & Social Club, Harmire Rd, Barnard Castle Co. Durham.
7 Chuck Layburn & The Railroaders.

DOUBLE 8 CMC (Tuesdays)
Community Centre, Wycombe Road, Nr. Stokenchurch, Bucks.
2 Emerald; 9 Amarillo; 23 Perfect Strangers; 30 TBA

TUCSON CMC (Mondays)
The Berry Suite, Abbey Lane, Edinburgh.
1 Carol West Band plus Gary Roberts; 8 Route 65; 15 Tucson plus Shotgun Duo; 22 Country Jays; 29 The Duke Boys

BLAIR ATHOLL CMC (Monthly)
The Village Hall, Blair Atholl.
26 Gringo.

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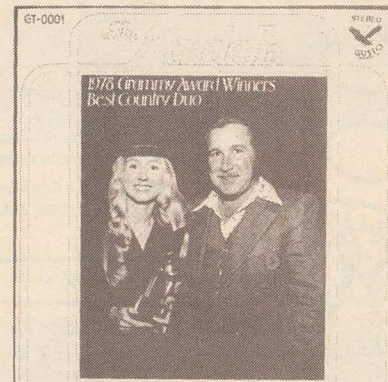
BILLY WALKER
The Best Of The Best Of
L.P. GT0040 Cass. GT50040



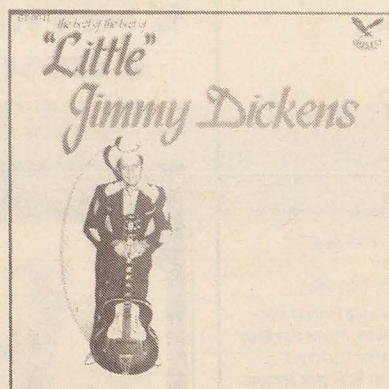
RED SOVINE
Teddy Bear
L.P. GT0071 Cass. GT50071



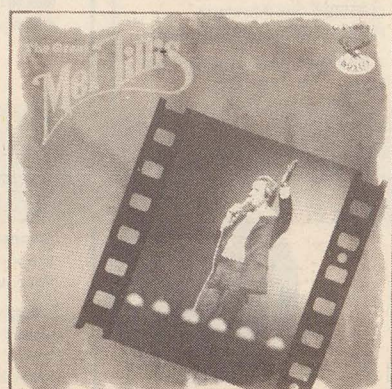
JIMMY MARTIN
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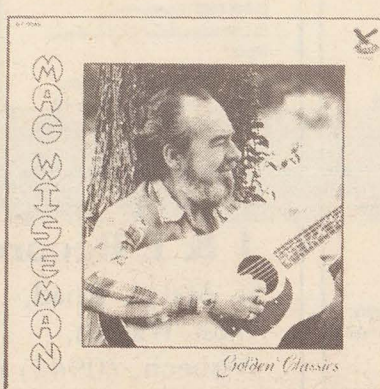
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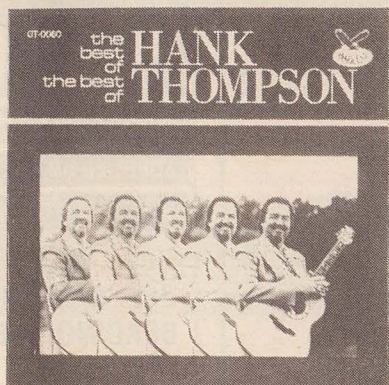
MEL TILLIS
The Great Mel Tillis
L.P. GT0047 Cass. GT50047



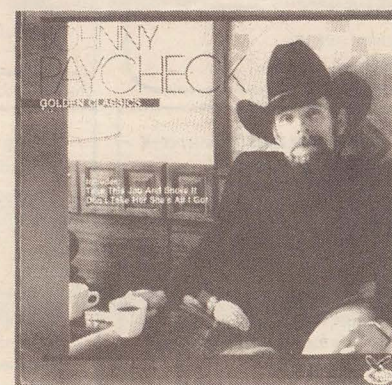
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JOHNNY PAYCHECK
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